〈詠の二十〉

やれ遊け
北は河太郎の宴
遊ぶはひや鳥場狩りや

アフタヌーンKC

アフタヌーン
KC430

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無限の住人

むげんのじゅうにん

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沙村広明

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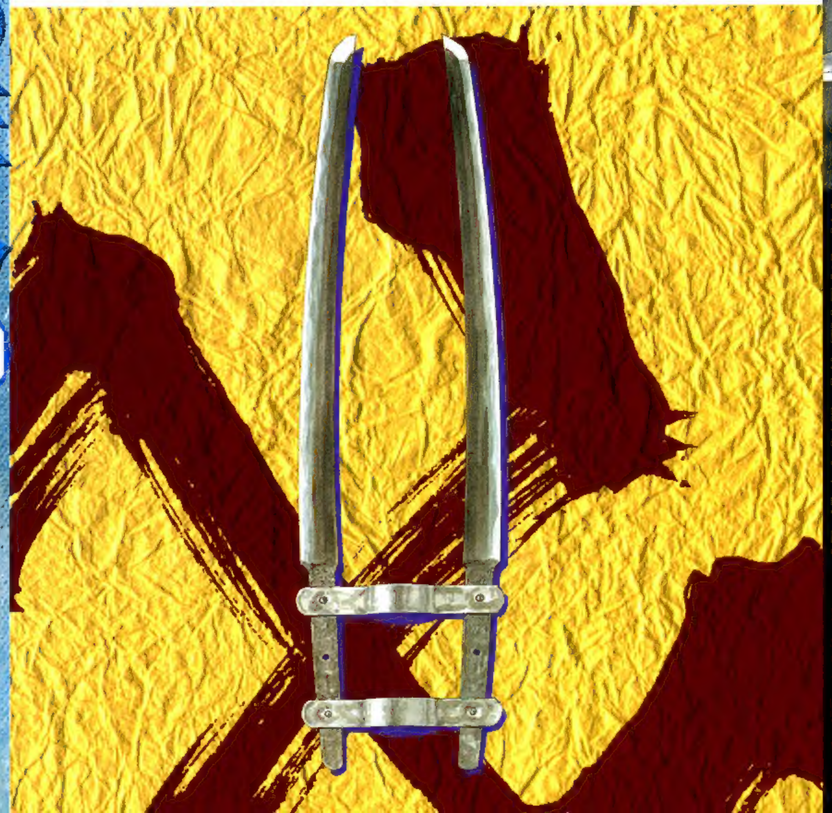
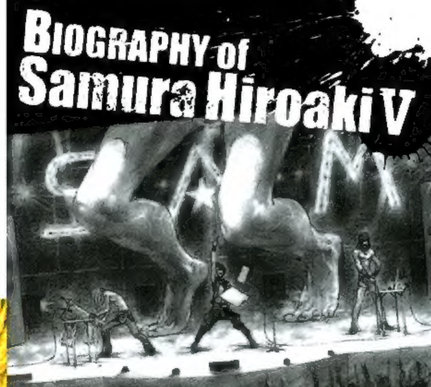


BIOGRAPHY of Samura Hiroaki V



"沙村広明"再結成記念公開制作の機構
写真左よりミカエル・ハンネマン(tone.)、スナイパー・リー(cont.)、ニコ・ペラドナ(pen.)、鼻がリトル・ニキータ(beta.)

「スナイパー・リーは約束を守った。直前までリトル・ニキータの参加は不可能だと噂されていた。だが当日、ベタリストとしてステージに上がったのは誰あろうジャン・リトル・ニキータその人である。これで欠けていたパズルのピースの最後の一片が完全にそろい、『伝説』は再び動き出した。圧倒的な光景だった――もはや神懸かりの境地に達したリーのネームを、ニコ・ペラドナのペンが、リトル・ニキータのベタが、ミカエル・ハンネマンのトーンが、純白の雪のようなケント紙の上に極彩色の花を咲かせるように、パーフェクトに再現していった。そう、それは確かに春の訪れ、冬の終わりを告げる儀式であったのだ。8年という長き冬の終わりを――」(「マンガ・ニンジャ」1993年7月号)

「日本の連中がファンタジーだの美少女だのとはしゃいでいる頃、俺達はその日を生きる事で精一杯だった。あんなのクソ喰らえだ」(ミカエル、同誌1993年4月号インタビューより)

「ラブコメだろうと文学系だろうとアグレッシヴに描く事ができる。俺はメロウになんて描かないぜ」(ニコ、「劇画ジャンボリー」1993年5月号インタビューより)

「(デビュー作「無限の住人」について)風呂につかっている時に思いついたんだ。時代劇にボレロのリズムを取り入れてみたらどうかって。他のメンバーも、とても面白いと言ってくれてね」(リー、公開制作直前のインタビューより)

「あの忌まわしい日から、はや半年が過ぎた。だがその光景は、昨日起こった事のように細部まではっきりと思い出せる。夢であればどれほど良かっただろうか

再結成記念公開制作スタートから2時間。祭りも終盤にさしかかった頃、スナイパー・リーが白紙原稿を片手にステージから客席にダイヴをした。狂喜する観客。もみくちゃにされるリー。作家もオーディエンスも、全てが祭りの喧噪に酔っていた。それに引きずられるように今度はミカエルが、次いでニコが、そして最後に……

後日警察が発表した情報によると、リトル・ニキータの下敷きになって死亡した人の数は、入院中に死んだ人々も含めて41人であった。この中にはミカエルとニコの名前もある。リトル・ニキータはビレニー刑務所の地下で現在も服役中である。

「夢を捨てるつもりはないよ」。九死に一生を得たリーは、病院のベッドの上で私にこう語った。「だが、もう二度とベタリストは戻れない。ベタを塗るだけの奴に人生を左右されるのはもうこ免だ。ボクのアイデアを文句も言わず紙の上で形にするだけの、忠実なしもべのような絵描きが必要だ。気付くのが遅かったよ。それには、そう……女性の方が都合がいいだろうね」」(「マンガ・ニンジャ」1993年12月号。文責・樹村明沙子)(了)

アフタヌーンKC

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# むげんのじゅ

沙村広明

# 無限の果て

沙村広明

# Contents:

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# ❖第百二十八幕❖
# 鬼の巣
## 〈其の七〉

## CHAPTER 128:
## DEMON'S LAIR
## PART 7

UAA-
AAH!

... AND NOW I'M JUST SUP-POSED TO...

... LOSE IT ALL BECAUSE OF MANJI?! NEVER!

I WORKED SO HARD TO BUILD MY REPUTATION ...

DAMN IT!

HA!

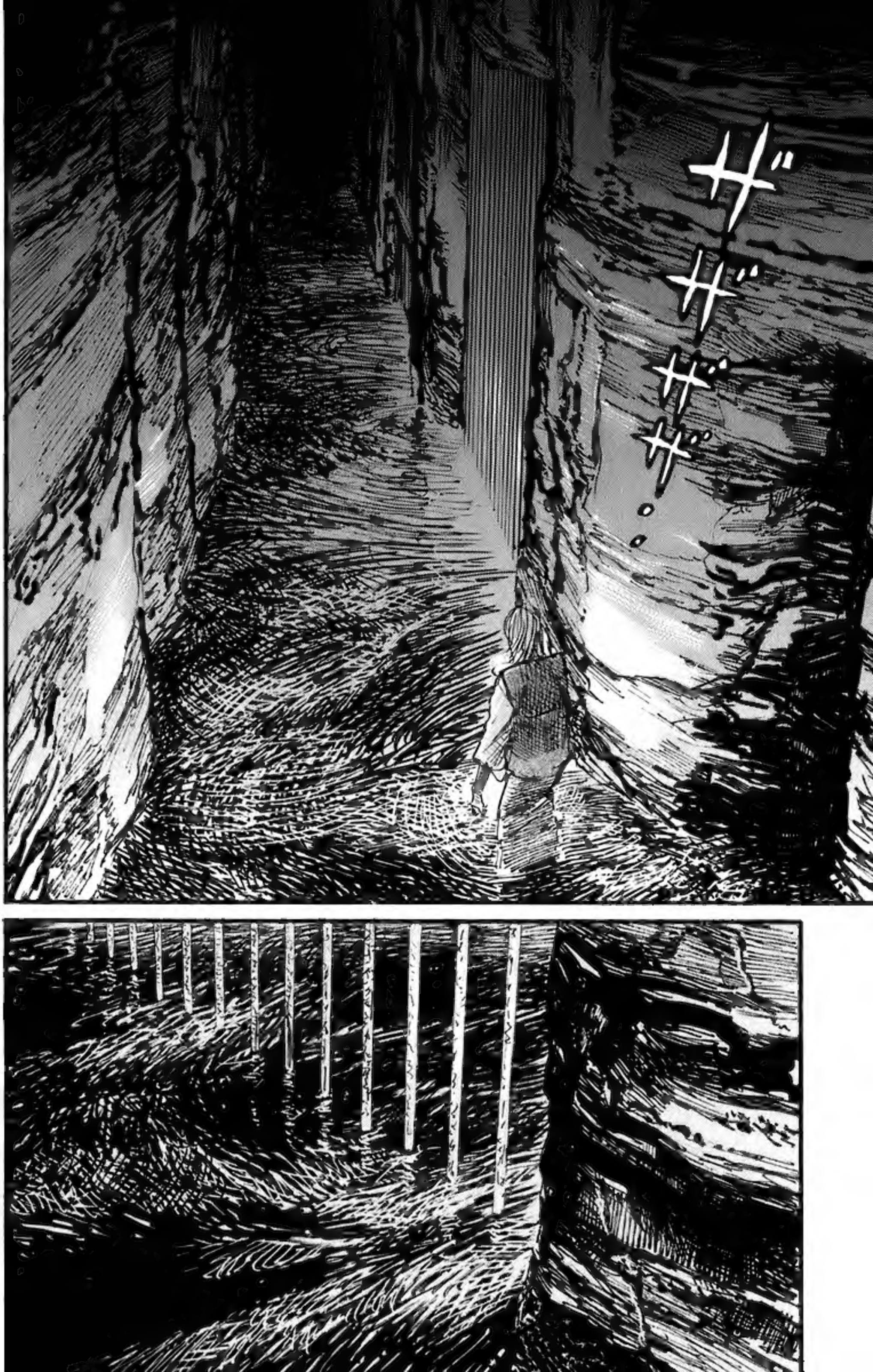
HA!

...

...

?!

UH ...



WHAT'S GOING ON?!

GET US OUT OF HERE!

HEY, DOCTOR! OVER HERE!

HALF AN HOUR AGO CRACKS STARTED FORMING ON THE WALL ...

WE HAVE NO IDEA!

WHERE'S THE WATER COMING FROM?

.....

.....!

THE EXPLOSION CAUSED THE WATER FROM THE MOAT TO SEEP THROUGH...

OR WE'LL FREEZE TO DEATH EVEN BEFORE WE DROWN!

QUICK, OPEN THE DOOR!

THERE ARE TWO ITTO-RYU FIGHTERS ROAMING AROUND HERE.

YOU THREE HAVE TO ELIMINATE THEM!

AH, FINE!

UNDER ONE CONDITION!

DON'T BE SCARED !!

YOU CAN BEAT THEM!

IT'S A DEATH PENALTY!

THAT'S NOT A CONDITION!

ITTO-RYU?! ARE YOU INSANE?

NUMBER O 19 WAS A FINANCIAL COMMISSIONER, WHO WAS BRIBED TO FORGE A FAKE INCOME STIPENDIUM* REGISTER.

NUMBER K 107 IS THE FORMER BOSS OF A BAND OF THIEVES FROM HAKONE.

NUMBER H 54 WENT BERSERK AND CAUSED A MASSACRE JUST BECAUSE HE WAS EXCLUDED FROM THE YAGYU SCHOOL.

(*TRANSLATOR NOTE: THIS IS A REGISTER DETAILING THE ANNUAL INCOME (KOKU), FOR EVERY SAMURAI.)

BESIDES, YOU ALL KNOW YOUR WAY WITH A SWORD.

... WITHOUT LOSING YOUR MIND.

YOU MANAGED TO SURVIVE THROUGH ALL OF MY EXPERI-MENTS ...

I MADE YOU IMMORTAL! SHOW SOME GUTS!

STOP THIS WHINING !

I WAS ONLY A YAGYU FOR HALF A YEAR ...

A BANDIT CAN'T DO ANYTHING ALONE ...

I'M AN ACCOUN-TANT AND NOT A WARRIOR!

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN LET THOSE GUYS OUT!

ARE YOU CRAZY ?!

DON'T YOU GET IT?! WE CAN'T STAND THE FEELING OF PAIN!

AREN'T THE GUYS NEXT DOOR BETTER SUITED?

ALSO, DOCTOR ...

HRR JAH!

GRR RAH!

GRR RAH!

GRR RAH!

THE WATER IS UP TO THEIR NECK, TOO.

STUPID QUES-TION...

WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE?

WHAT'S THIS SCREA-MING?

VERY WELL ...

BAS-TARD!

YOUR CHOICE! EITHER YOU FIGHT THE ITTO-RYU...

ASS-HOLE!

... OR YOU DROWN IN YOUR CELL!

OKAY! WE AGREE!

WHAT WILL IT BE?

WHERE... IS THE KEY ...?

EH ...?

I'LL GO AND GET THE KEY ...

CALM DOWN! I KNOW WHERE IT IS!

YOU MORON !!

DAMN IT! WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU DOING?!

UAR GH!

ドドドド・・・

ゴオッ・・！

HELP ...!

UH ...

COUGH! COUGH!

AH ...!

AS IF, YOU SUCK-UP!

GO AND KILL THE INTRU-DERS!

HEY! WHO GAVE YOU PERMISSION TO LEAVE?!

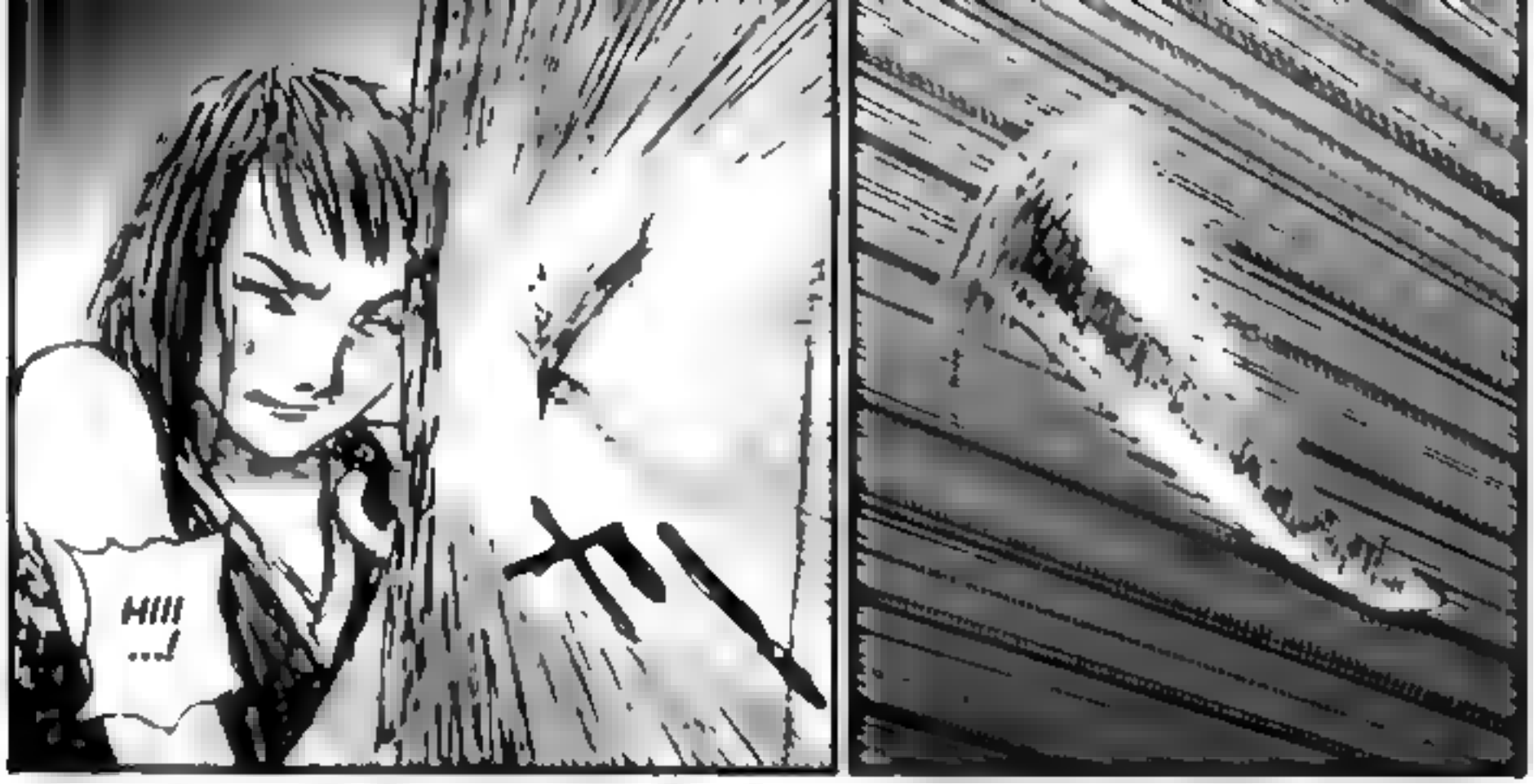
WHY ARE YOU STARING AT ME?!

AH!

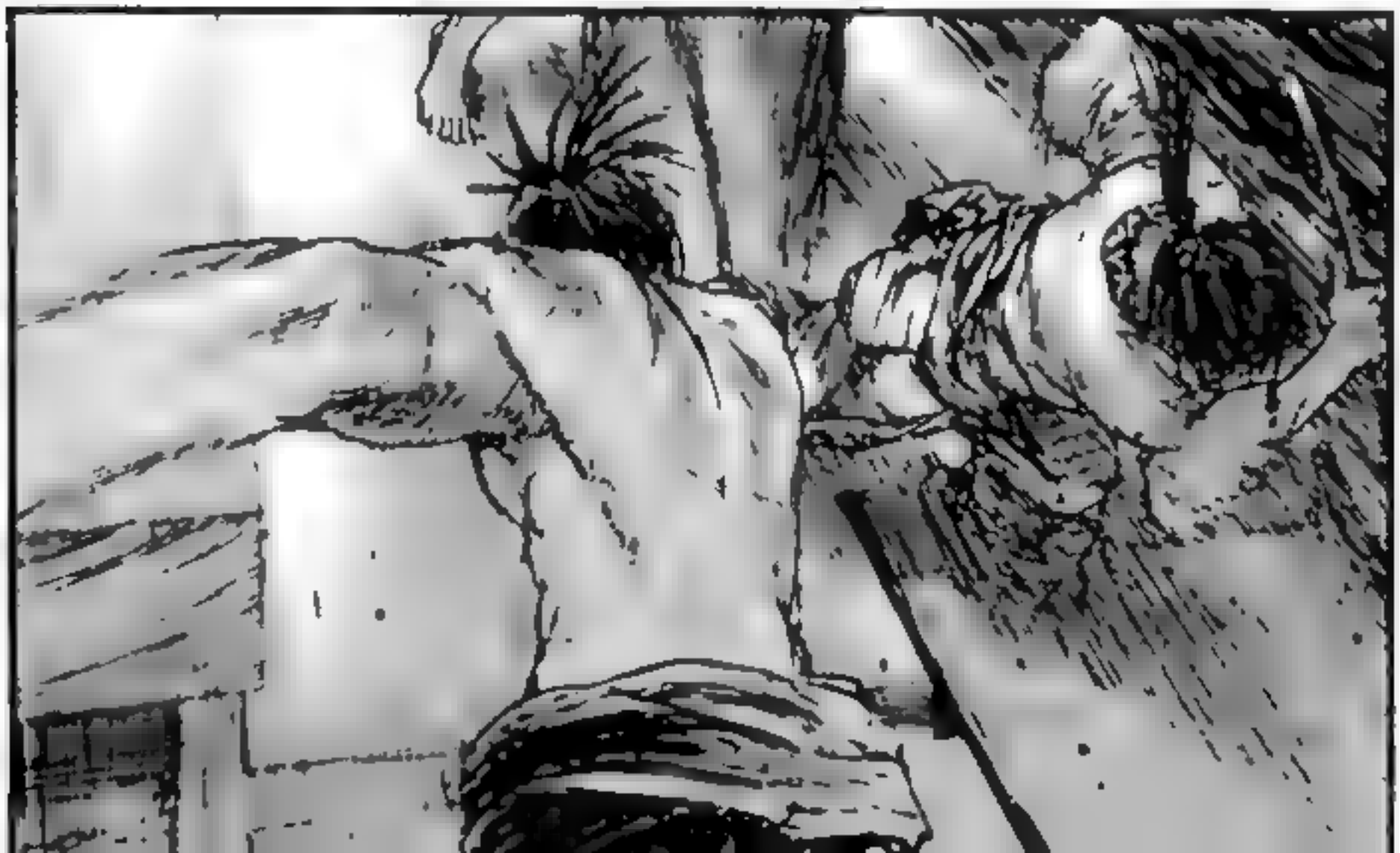
I HOPE YOU DROWN!

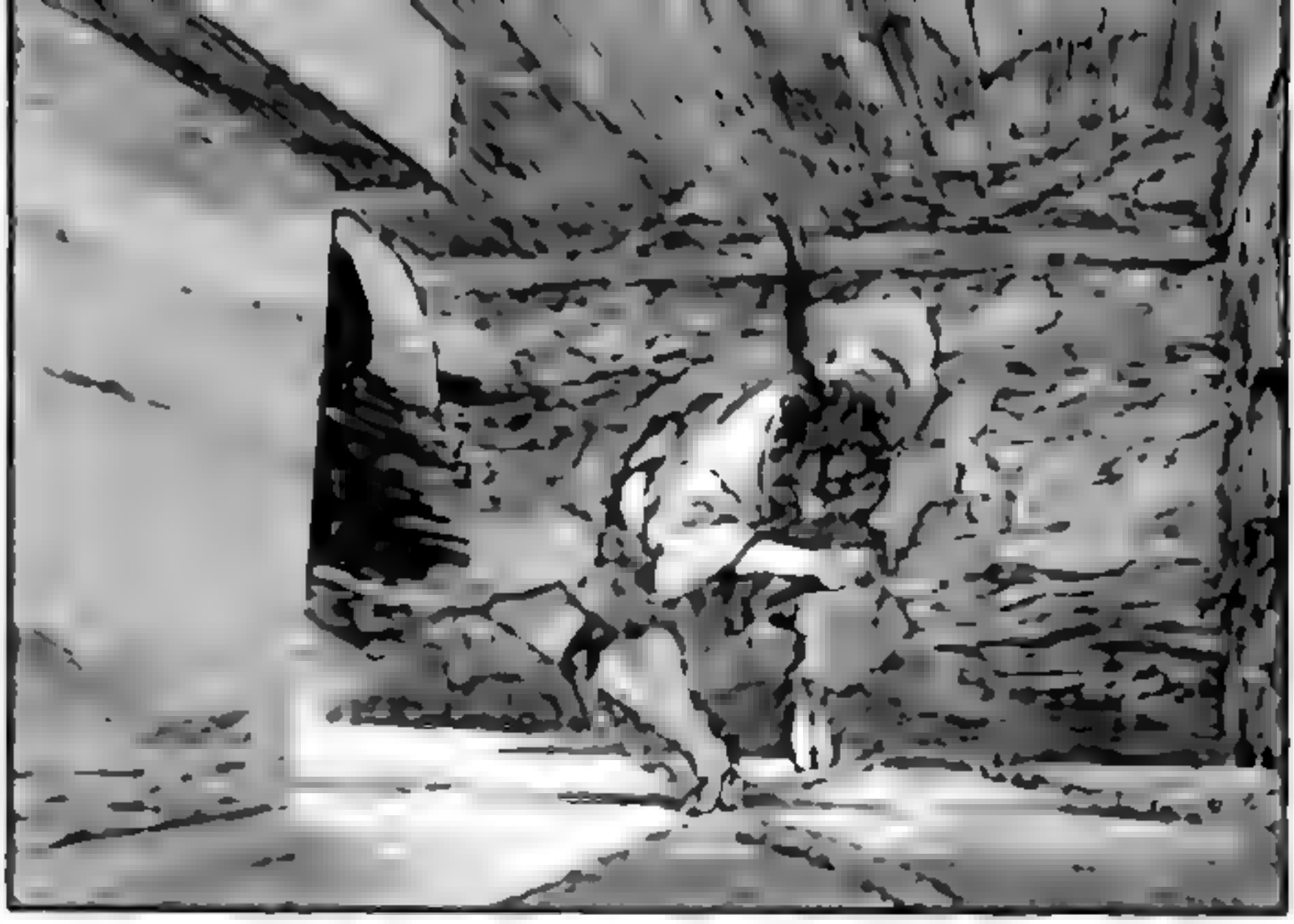
YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING FOR US!

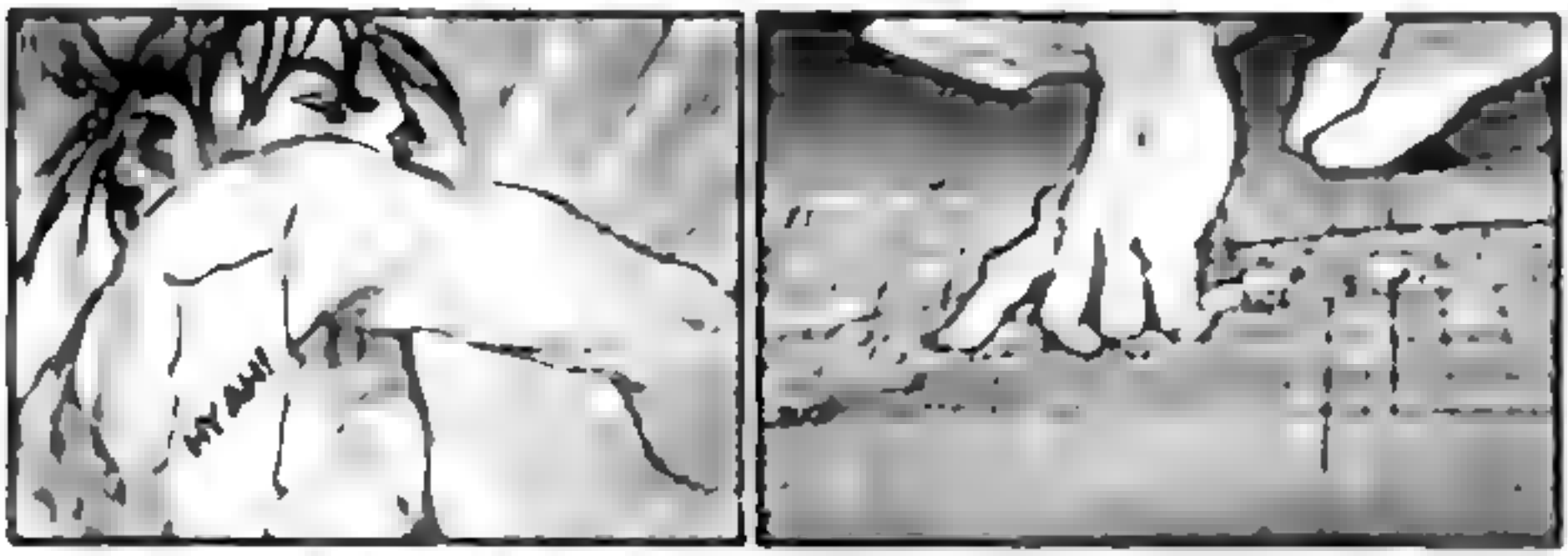
THAT WASN'T WHAT WE AGREED ON!

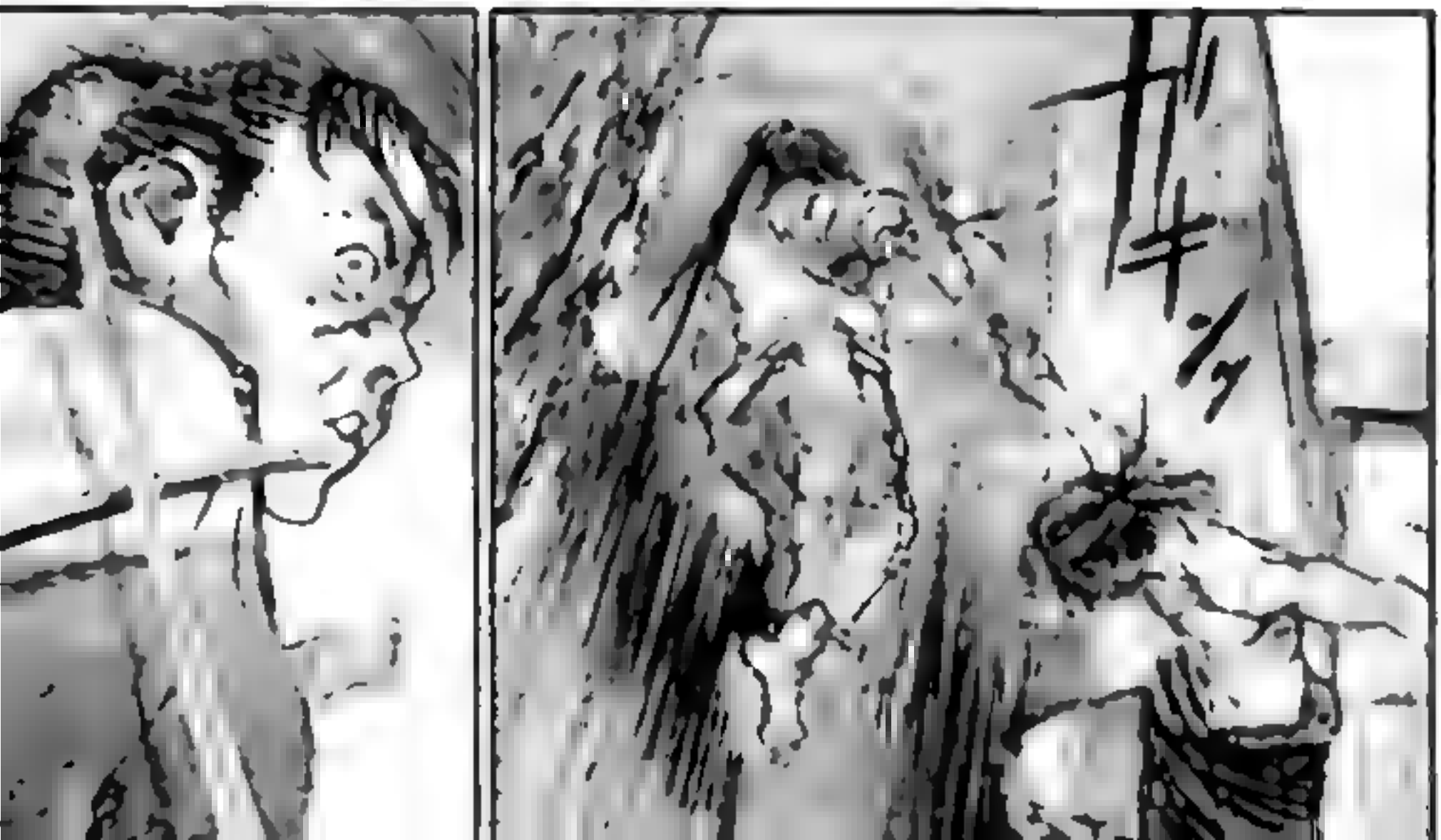

HIII
...!

.....
.....









PHEW ...!

MISTER YA-MADA! HERE!

MANJI IS IN-CREDI-BLE!

AFTER A MONTH OF BEING INCARCERATED HE SHOULD BE...

...COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED AND UNABLE TO DEFEND HIMSELF.

MANJI TOLD ME ---

... RESTORE THE BODY TO THE EXACT STATUS IT WAS IN WHEN THEY FIRST POSSESSED IT.

THE KESSEN-CHU WORMS, WHICH ARE THE SOURCE OF HIS IMMORTALITY ---

BUT... WAIT A SECOND ...!

MANJI HASN'T CHANGED, BUT IN WHAT STATE ARE ALL THE OTHER PRISONERS ...?

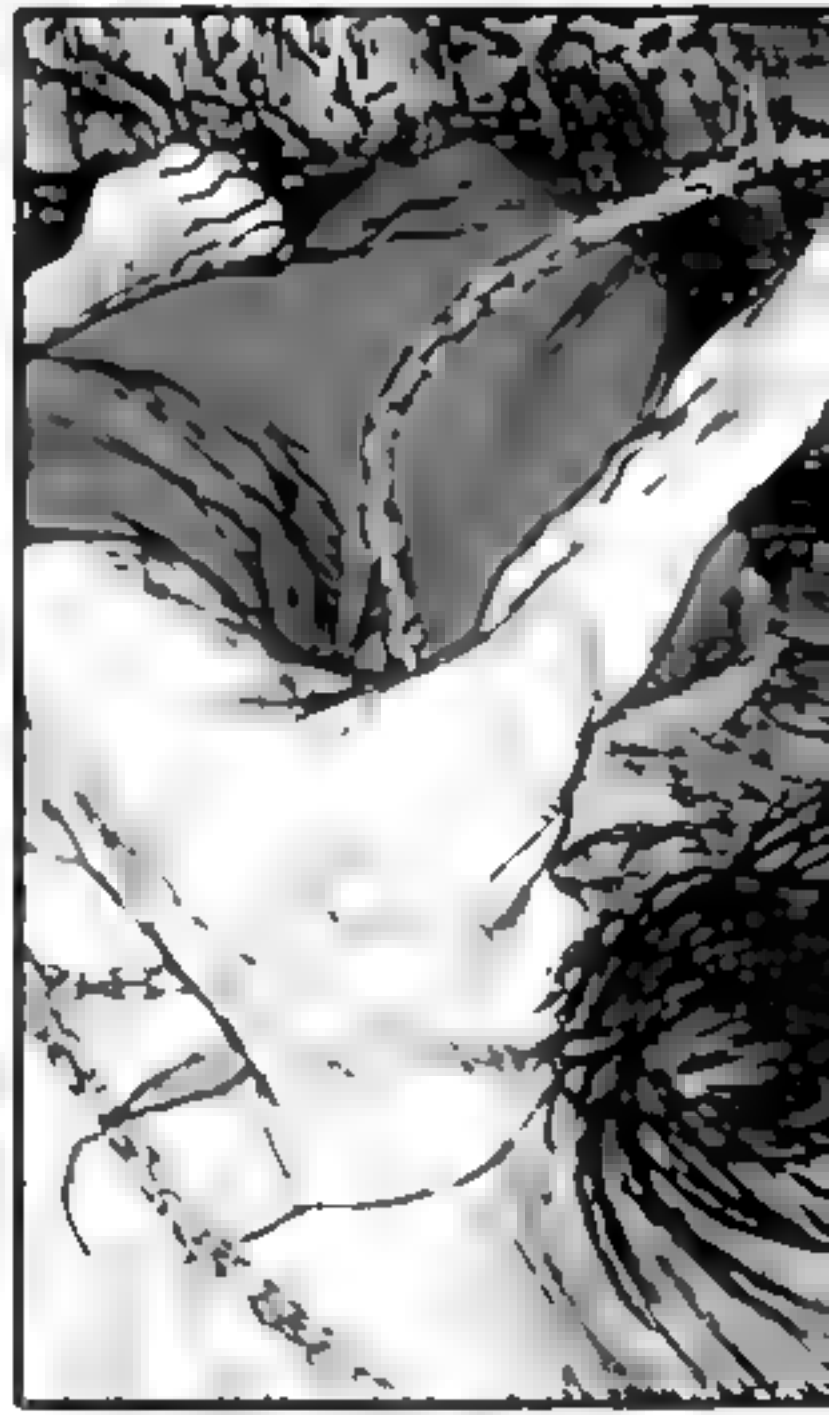
THAT'S WHY, DESPITE HIS LONG INCARCERATION ...

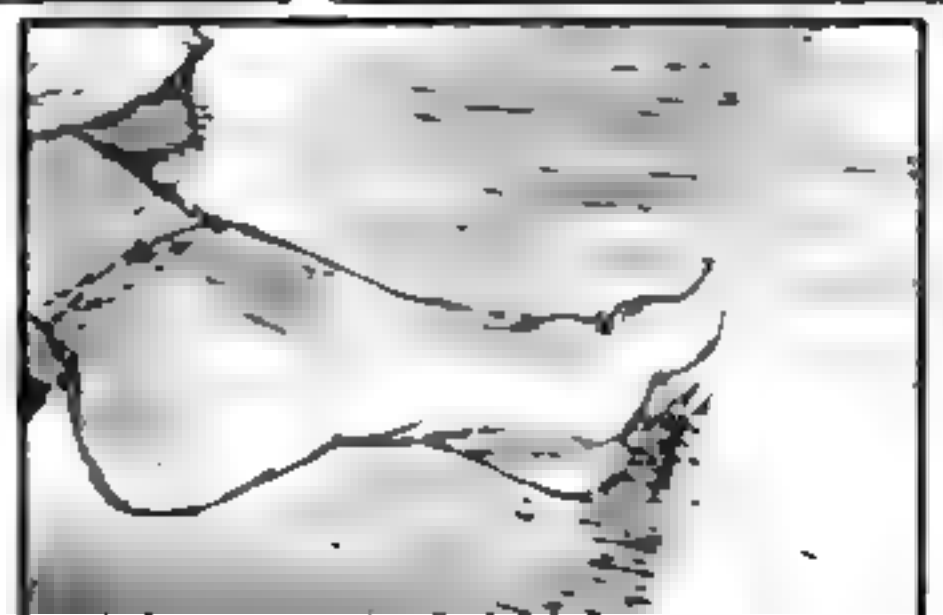
... HIS MUSCLES HAVEN'T WEAKENED AND HIS HAIR HASN'T GROWN ANY LONGER.

...
!!

MANJI
!!

GWAZ





HIA AH AH ii

TCH

...

...

NA...
NANJI
...!

HA?

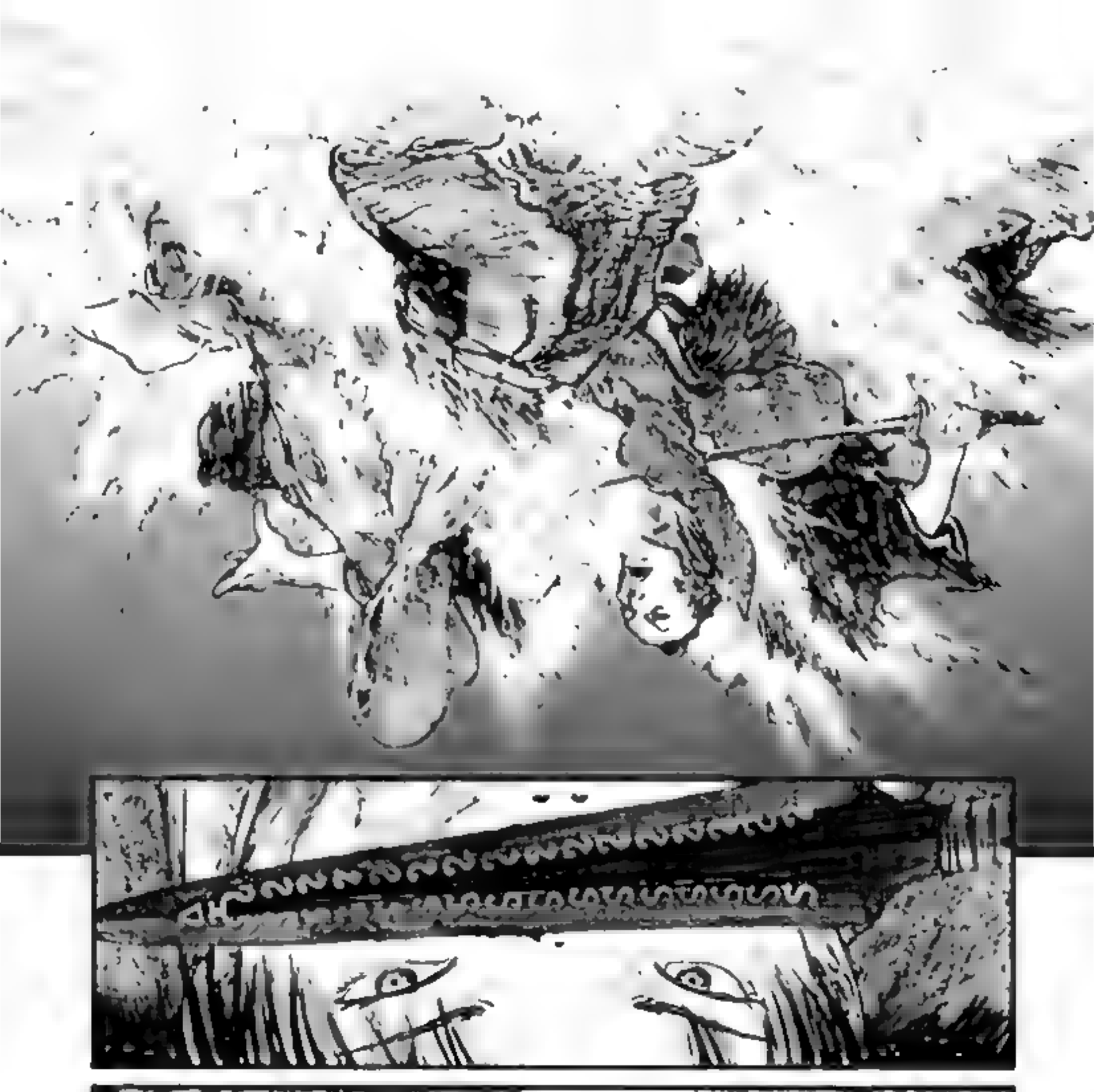
KOSCH

?!
!
THE ...
WHERE'S THE WATER COMING FROM ...?

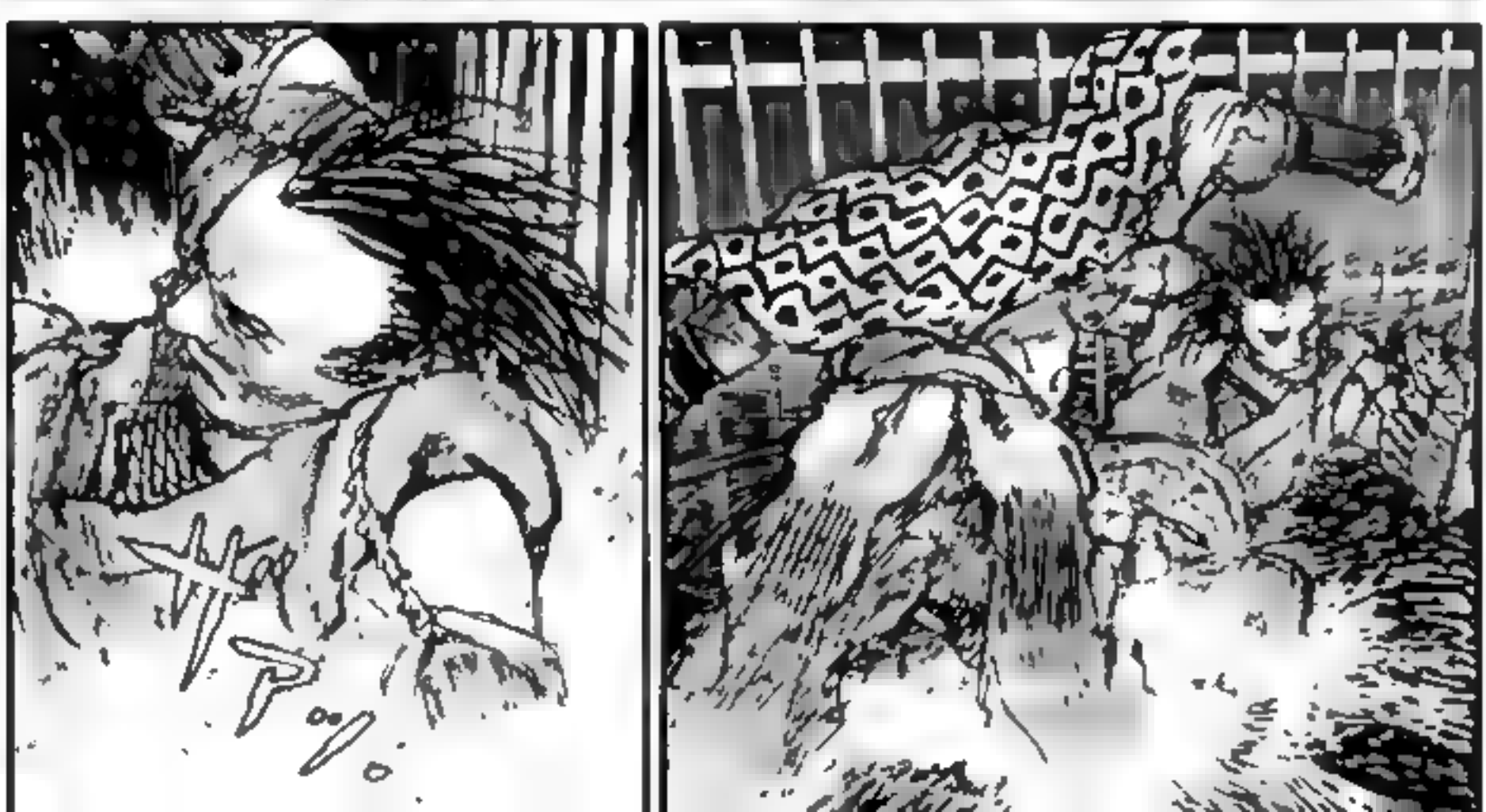
WE WILL NOT SUP-PEN-DEE!

WE WON'T RUN AWAY BECAUSE OF A LITTLE GIRL!

A CHILD !!


UAA AH!!

HIAAAH!!



THE WATER FROM THE MOAT PROBABLY BREACHED ...

IT'S ICE COLD ...

UH ...

...UNTIL THE MOAT IS EMPTY.

THE WATER WILL CONTINUE TO RISE ...

THIS UNDER-GROUND ROAD IS THREE JO* BELOW THE MOAT.

(*1 JO = 3.03 METER)

... USUALLY HINDERS THE WEAK THE MOST.

THE COLD WATER ...

WELL, IT DOESN'T CONCERN US FOR NOW...

PHUT!

WELL ...

PHUT!

YOU DON'T SEEM TO CARE ...

BUAH! HA! HA! HA!

I'LL SAY IT AGAIN THE WATER LEVEL IS RISING!

SOME-THING'S COMING ..

CHAPTER 128 | END

CHAPTER 139
DEMON'S LAIR
PART 5

# ❖第百三十九幕❖
# 鬼の巣

CALL FOR BACK-UP!

WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO WITH SO FEW MEN?

THERE ARE ENOUGH OF US, WE'LL WIN.

NO, DON'T YOU WORRY!

IT'S JUST ONE LITTLE GIRL ..

SMALL PEOPLE ARE AT A DISAD-VANTAGE ..

SHE CAN BARELY MOVE.

LOOK! THE WATER LEVEL ALREADY REACHED ALL THE WAY TO HER HIP!

ARE YOU OKAY ?!

MASTER! MASTER YAMADA!

...

U

...UNDER THESE CONDI-TIONS.

OH!

MURA-KOSHI, GO AND GET REIN-FORCE--MENTS!

MASTER, HANG IN THERE!

OKAY, I'LL GO AND WAKE UP THE GUARDS!

HURRY! COME QUICK!

WHAT ?! REINFORCE-MENTS ARE ALREADY ON THEIR WAY ..

HERE ..

WHAT ...?

WHAT ?!

YAAAH!

DOA!

AH!

HEY, YOU FUC-...

BWA ARH !!

GRR RAH !!

WHA ...

WHAT IS THAT ?

THIS SHITHOLE IS FULL OF SUR-PRISES!

HE HE HE ..

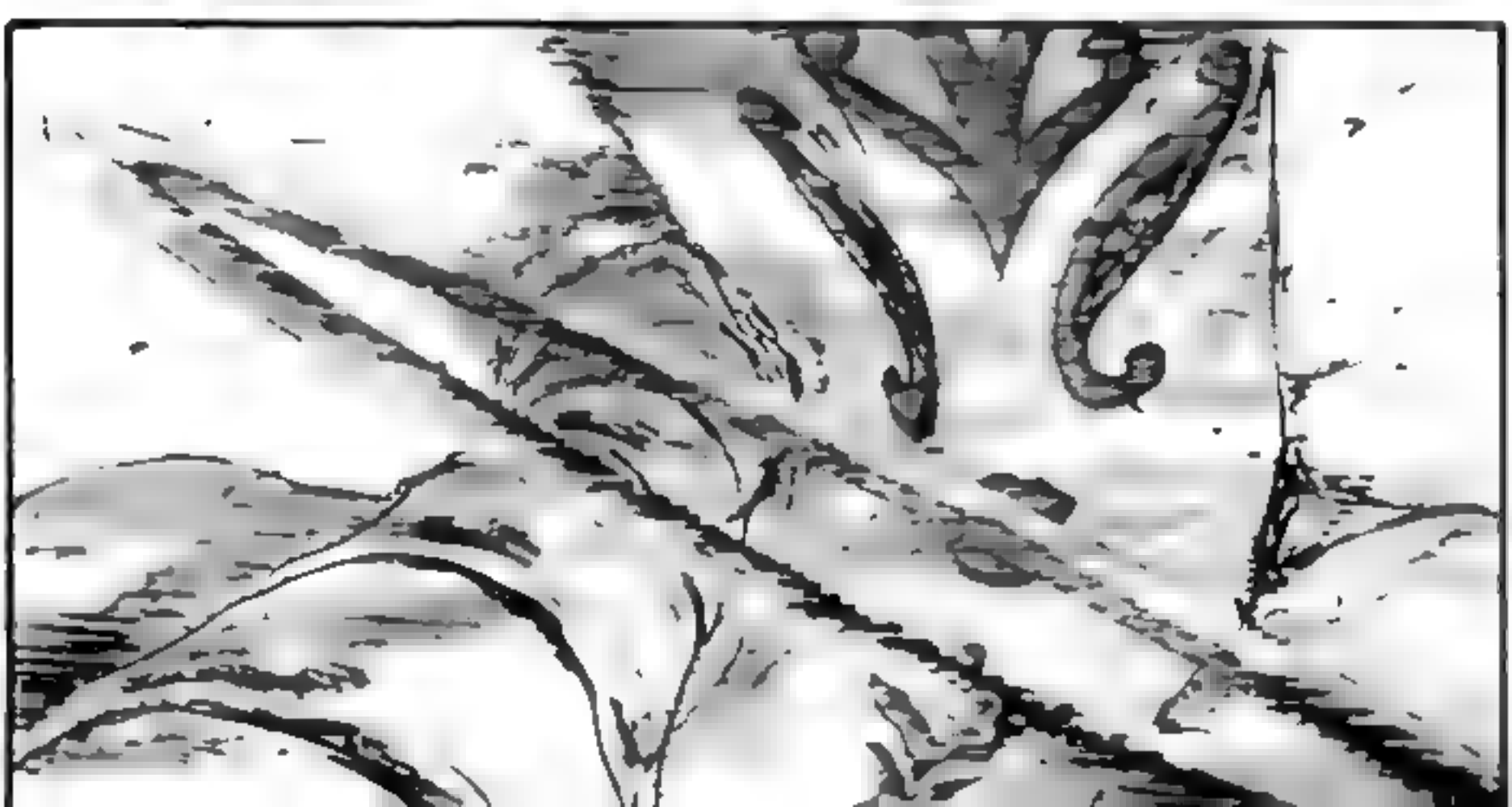
AH ..!

HIII IAH!

KYAUUH!

HNN
NGH

ISAKU
...!



DAMN! THIS IS BAD, REALLY BAD ...

THE FIGHT HAS ALREADY STARTED !!

I KNOW I'M YOUR ENEMY, BUT PLEASE ...

DON'T LET THIS THING GET OUT OF HERE UNDER ANY CIRCUM-STANCES!

IT WAS CREATED BY MY UNFORGIVABLE CURIOSITY

...THAT MADE ME EXPERIMENT ON HUMANS.

TO BE HONEST ...

...THIS WASN'T DONE IN THE NAME OF SCIENCE.

I SHOULDN'T HAVE CREATED IT...

"HM, INTERES-TING IDEA ..."

"BU-R AN-DO !"

"ARE YOU TRYING TO TRANSFORM ALL YOUR SOLDIERS INTO IMMOR-TALS?"

I UNDER-STOOD THAT, BUT I ALSO KNEW ---

HE TOLD ME THAT HE DIDN'T AU-THORISE THIS KIND OF EXPERI-MENTS.

---AND IGNORED MY WORDS.

MISTER HABAKI JUST LAUGHED ---

I KNEW WHAT HE WANTED ---

I WAS AWARE OF HABAKI'S PLAN.

---AND WHO HE REALLY WANTED TO MAKE IMMORTAL!

I KNEW FOR WHAT PURPOSE THE EXPERIMENTS WERE CONDUCTED ---

OH SHIT!

BUT ---

IT WAS NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE EXPERIMENT TO PRODUCE THE RESULTS ---

IT WAS IM-POS--SIBLE!

HE HIMSELF KNEW THAT THE MOST.

---THAT HABAKI WANTED.

PROOF THAT THE OPERATIONS WERE SUCCESS-FUL-

I WANTED PROOF!

STILL ---

---I JUST COULDN'T STOP!

I WANTED TO PROVE THAT I WAS SUPERIOR TO THEM, REGARD-LESS OF MY SOCIAL STATUS!

I WANTED TO SHOW THE DOCTORS! THOSE SNOBS!

UAAAH!

!

GR OFF ...

BRA AH!

ﾄﾞｶ

KCH ...

WE HAVE TO HELP...

WE CAN'T !

AND IT WOULD TAKE TOO LONG TO CHOP MY ARM OFF, SO ..

I CAN'T REACH THAT FAR WITH THESE CHAINS ON.

DOA! ISAKU!

..THE PROPHET WILL HAVE TO GO TO THE MOUNTAIN!

WAIT!

IF THE MOUNTAIN WON'T COME TO THE PROPHET, THEN

HEY! ARE YOU CRAZY?!

YOU CAN'T DO ANY-THING TO HELP THEM!

THEN I'LL ..

UUH ...

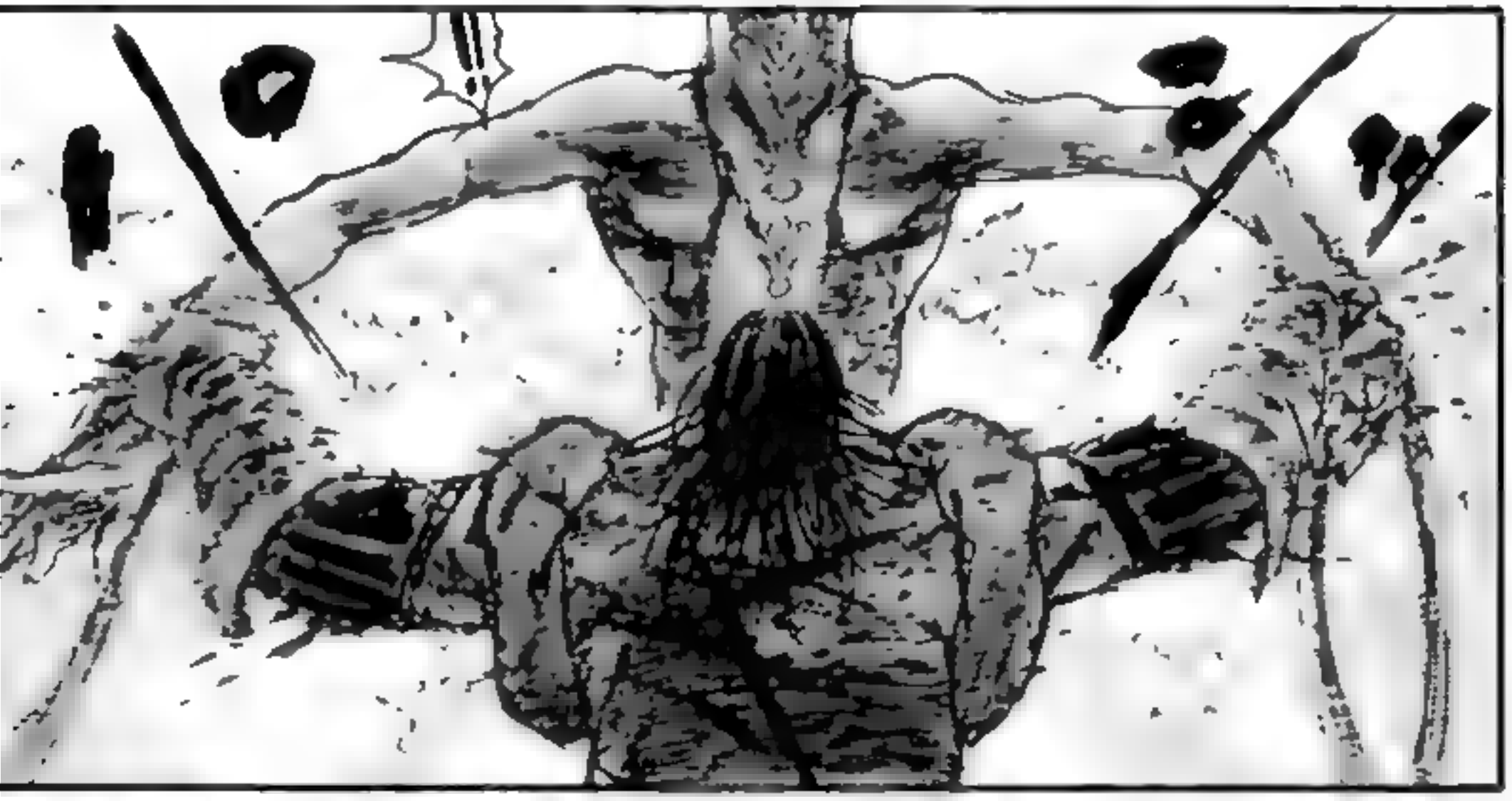
GRRRAAAAAAAAH!!

ISAKU!

ISAKU!

LET ME FIGHT!

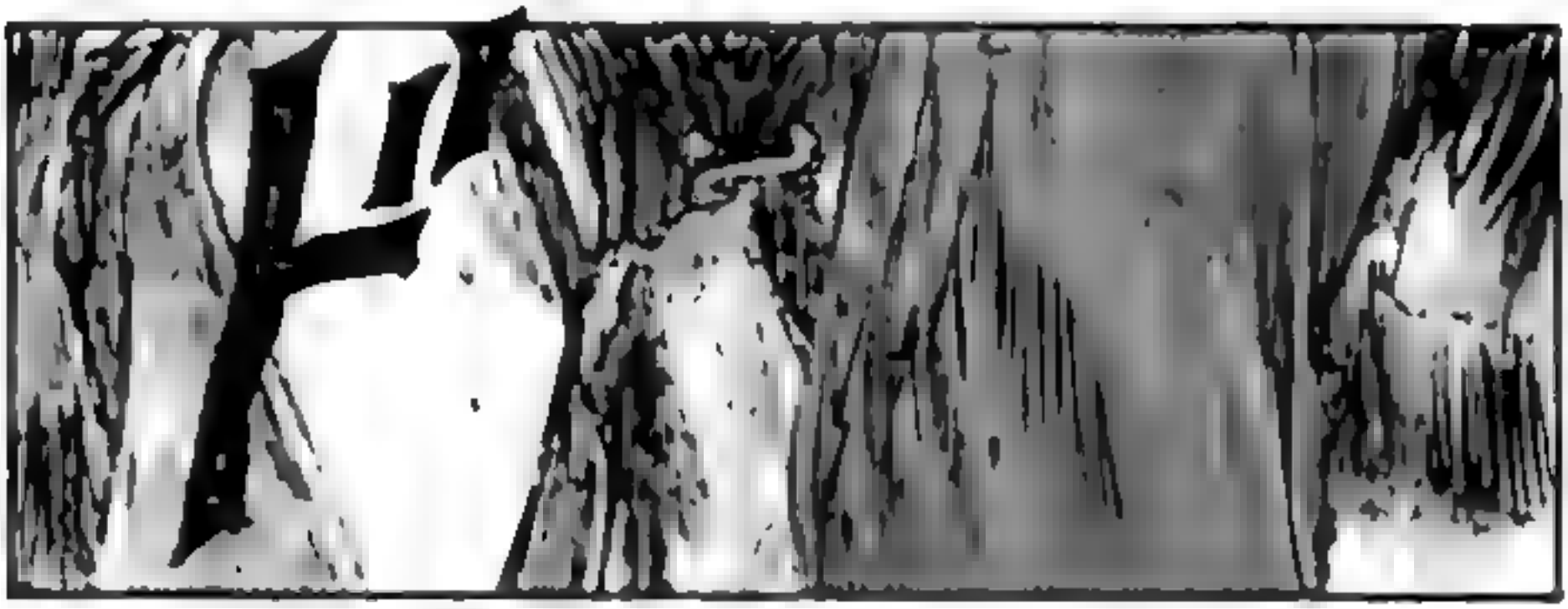
YOUR IMMOR-TALITY WON'T BE ENOUGH



KAAH!

DOA!

HU NGH ?!



HNGH
...

DOAA
AAA
!!

THIS LONG-LEGGED MONSTER ...

...IS NOT HINDERED BY THE RISING WATER.

HER AGILITY SURPRISED ME.

BUT NOW SHE'S EXHAUSTED.

SO THAT'S HOW THINGS TURNED OUT ...

IN ANY CASE ...

---TO KILL THOSE TWO.

I WON'T GET A BETTER CHANCE ---

---I DON'T KNOW ---

WELL ---

BUT AS SOON AS I ELIMINATE THEM THE MONSTER WILL---

--- ATTACK ME.

URGH!

HURF?!

GU AH!!

HA HA HA!

RIGHT IN THE EYE, AGAIN! I'M A GENIUS!

GRU AH!!

GRU AH!

GET BACK. HE'S COMING!

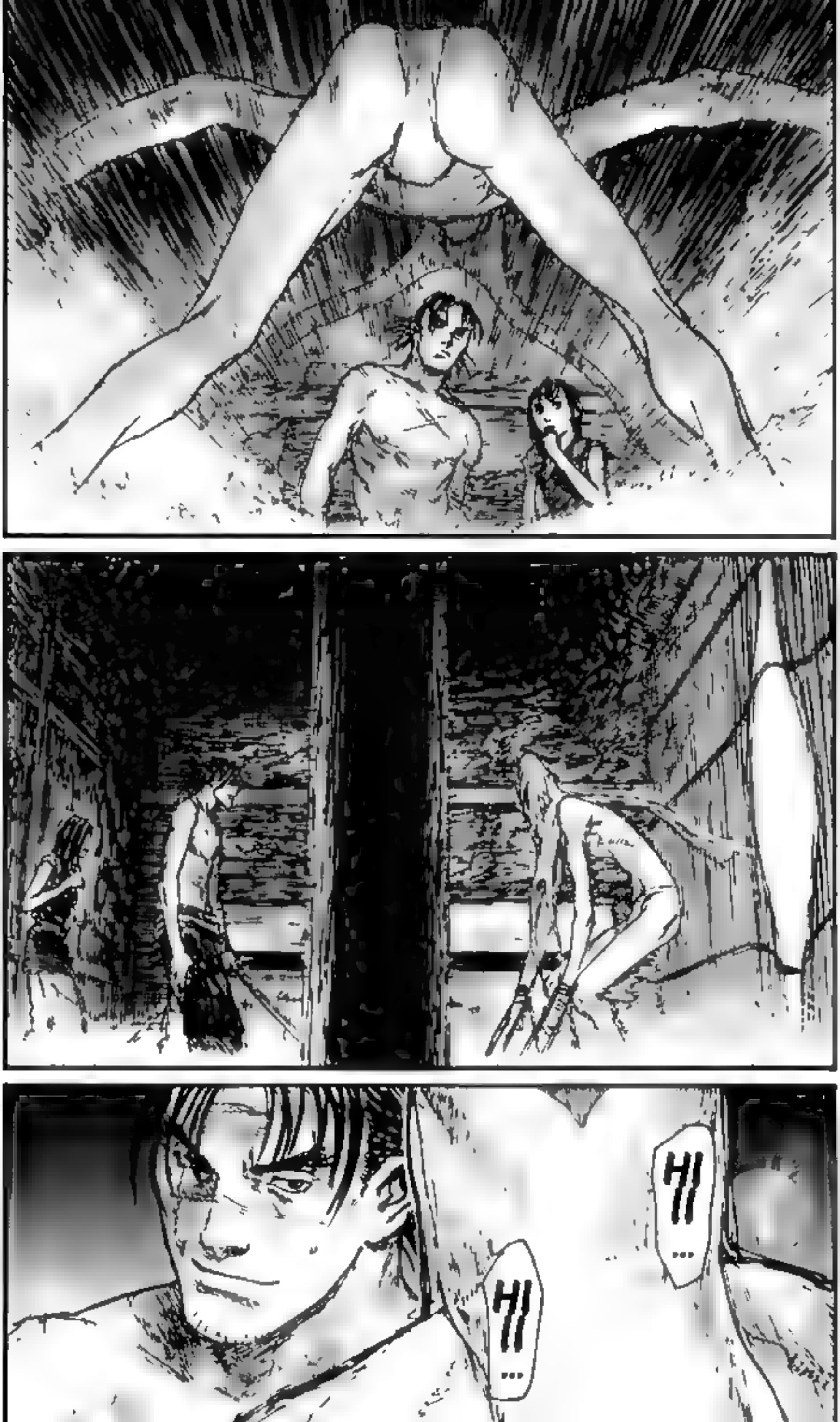
BESIDES, THE ANAESTHETIC WOULDN'T WORK ON THOSE THINGS ANYWAY.

NO, THE WATER WASHED AWAY THE ANAES-THETIC.

HE'LL DROP ANY-TIME NOW!

HRRRGH ...

BUH!


HI
...
HI
...

GYAH!

GRRRRRCH AH!

OOPS !

THIS GUY IS LIKE ME.

A FEW SCRATCHES WON'T SCARE HIM OFF. REALLY ANNOYING!

MANJI !!

I TOLD YOU TO STAND BACK!

HIA AAH !!

AH ...!

MURGH!

DOA! NOW ...

VERY GOOD!

NOW THAT YOU'RE ALONE I'LL FINISH YOU OFF!

HA!

HA!

HA!

HA!

HA!

CHAPTER 129 | END

CHAPTER 130
DEMON'S LAIR
PART 2

# ※第百三十話※
# 鬼の巣
## ―日の玉―

HIS HEAD!

...TO SLICE IT OFF ...

IF I CAN MANAGE ...

HRRR YAH!

UR RF!

HM ?

COUGH!

KCHH IIH!!

MO RCH T

URGH ...

PULL THE SWORD OUT AND CUT HIS HEAD OFF!

...YEAH, YOU!

DOA!

I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT!

YOU HAVE TO TAKE HIS HEAD.

BEATING AND STABBING HIM WON'T KILL HIM.

HNGH

KYAA AH!

HYAAH!

MWRRGH!

HUFF ...

W.. WAIT!

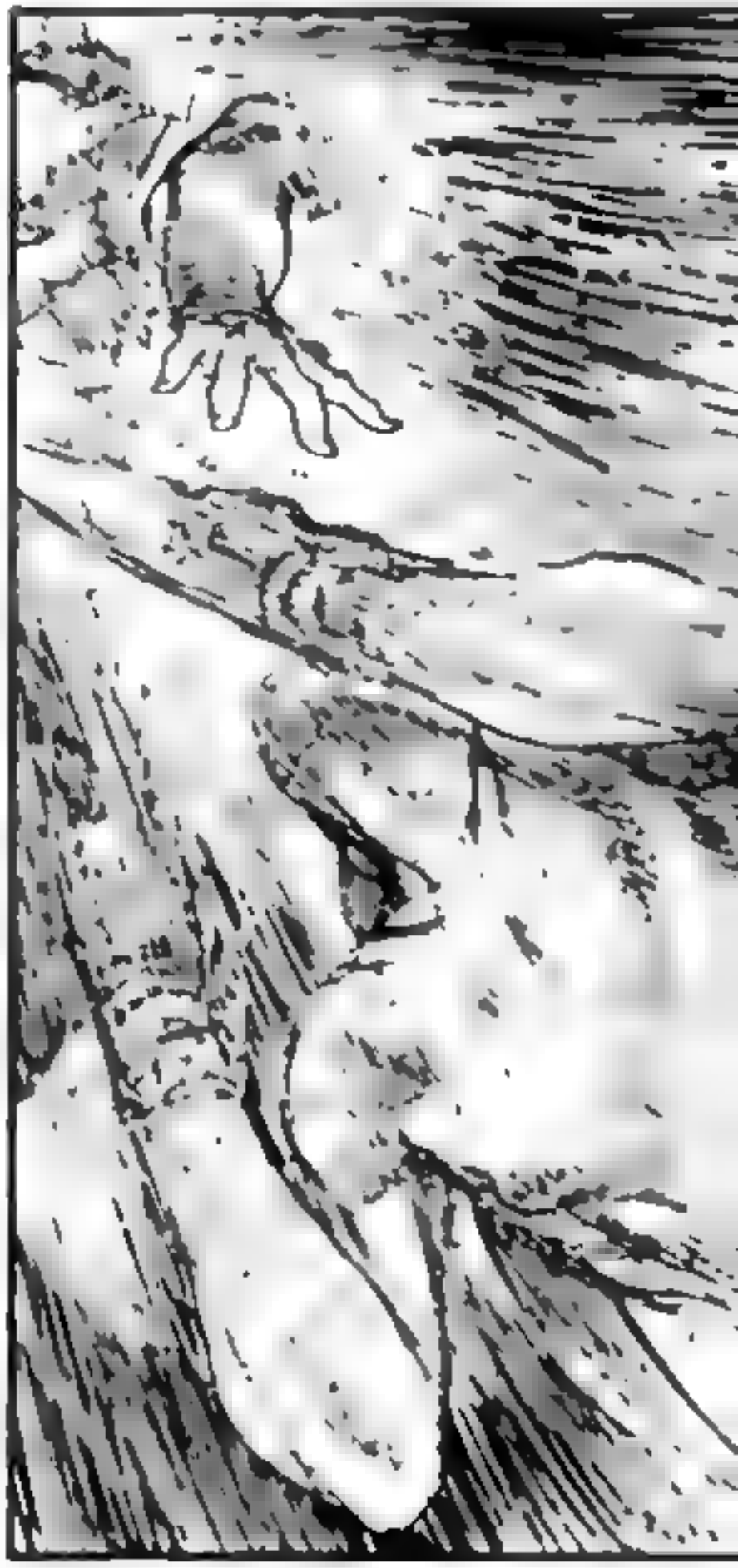
THE ...

HURRY UP!

UAH !!

GRA AH!

UMPH!



PUAH ...!

GRRRAAH!

IT'S TOO WET FOR YOU TO MOVE PROPERLY.

THE PANTS TOO ...

!

DOA, TAKE OFF YOUR JACKET!

?!

URRGH ...

ISAKU !!

!- ...

HA ...!

I DON'T LIKE AN UNFAIR FIGHT ..

THIS SWORD SHOULD EVEN THINGS UP ..

WE ARE ABOUT THE SAME STRENGTH ...

BUT YOU ARE IMMORTAL, AND YOUR ARMS ARE ARMORED

ISAKU!

HI ...

HII ...

HII ...

UAHA HA HA!

HNGH ...

IF I DON'T STOP THAT THING THEY'LL BOTH BE DEAD.

A CHAINED MANJI AND THE EXHAUSTED GIRL WON'T WIN AGAINST THIS MONSTER ...

BOTH ARE IMMORTAL. I WONDER WHO'LL WIN ...

... ...

BUT IF SHE DIES, THIS GUY WILL ATTACK THE MONSTER.

WHATEVER THE RESULT, I'LL TEAR THE VICTOR TO PIECES!

YES, THAT'S IT!

IT IS NOT COWARDICE

THAT IS THE BEST STRATEGY !!

THAT'S HOW I CAN GET RID OF THAT THING AND GET MANJI'S BODY OUT OF HERE. I HAVE TO GET PRIORITIES. I WON'T LOSE SIGHT OF MY GOAL.

NN !?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING !?

ARE YOU TRYING TO DO THE SAME THING AS MANJI?

GUAAAH !!

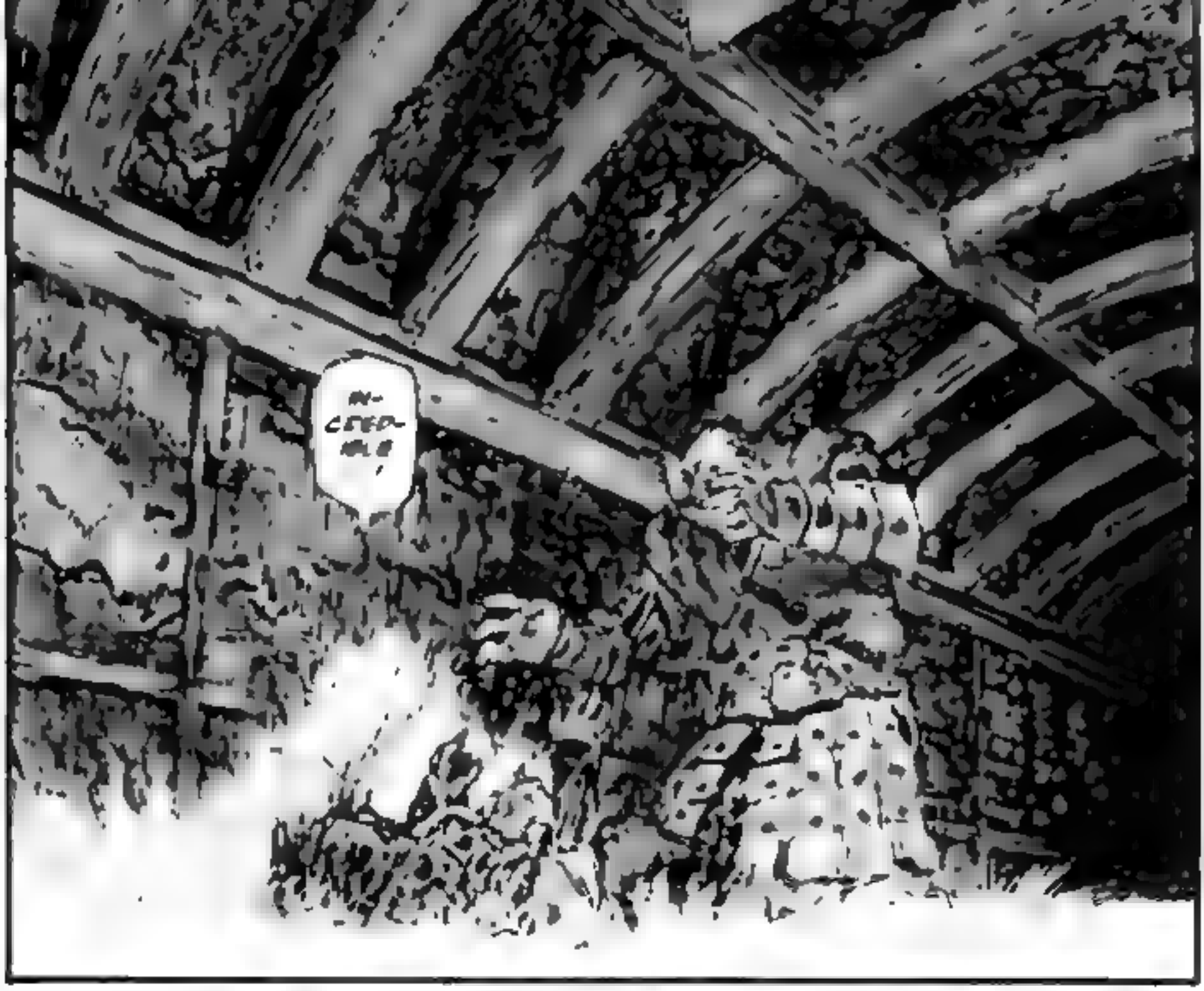
...

WHAT?

W... WAIT!

DAMN IT!

AAA
AAH
...



KYA AAA !!

BWR RRCH ?!

UNGH !!

GRRRAH!

THE SWORD IS STUCK ...

DAMN, NOT AGAIN!

!

GRR RAH!

DAMN, THIS GUY ...

KCH ...

..... .....?

URRGH!

FUCK IT!

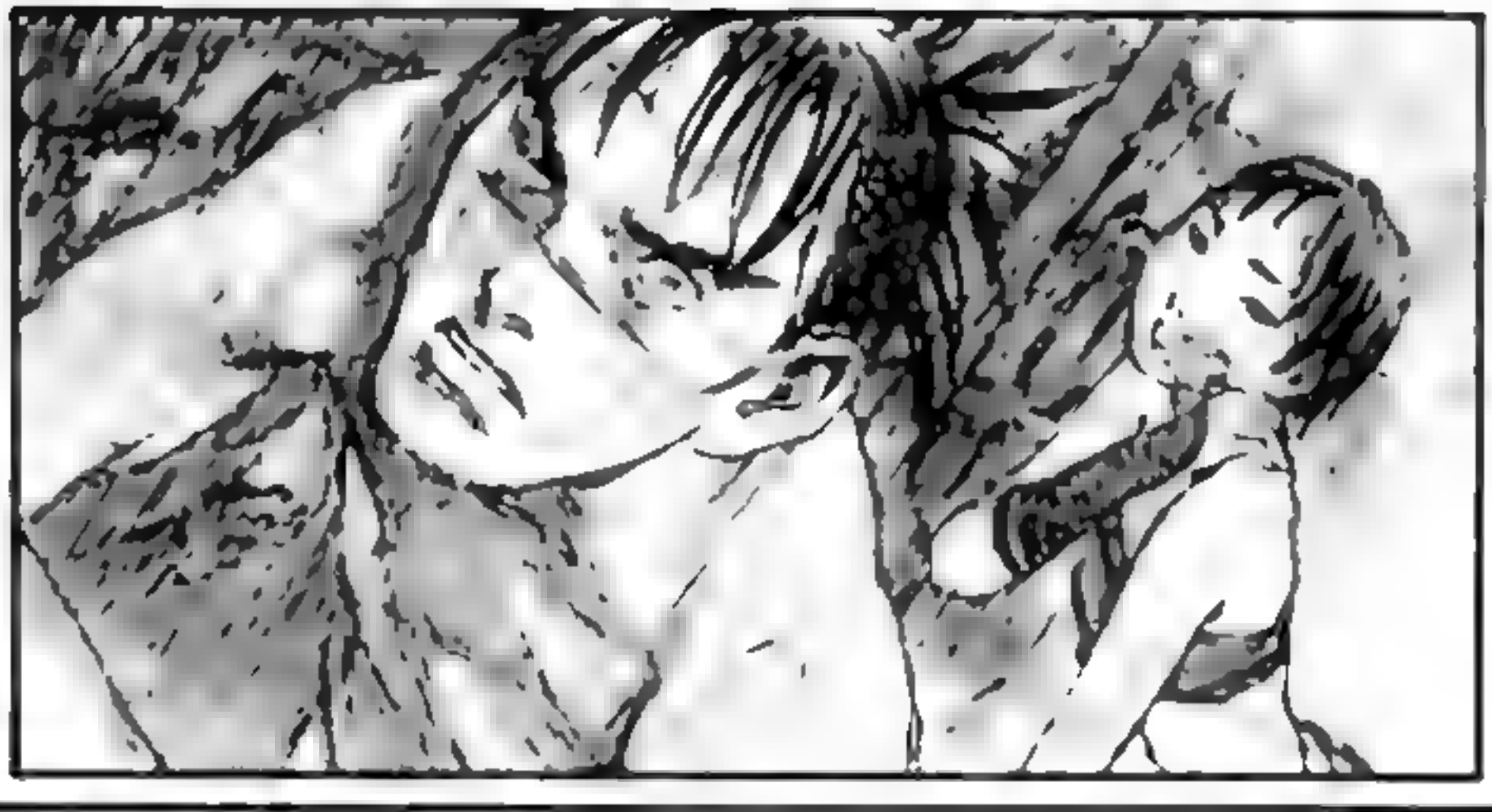
GU AH!!

GR RA H!

BU AR GH!

BW WO OH!

KCHII ...



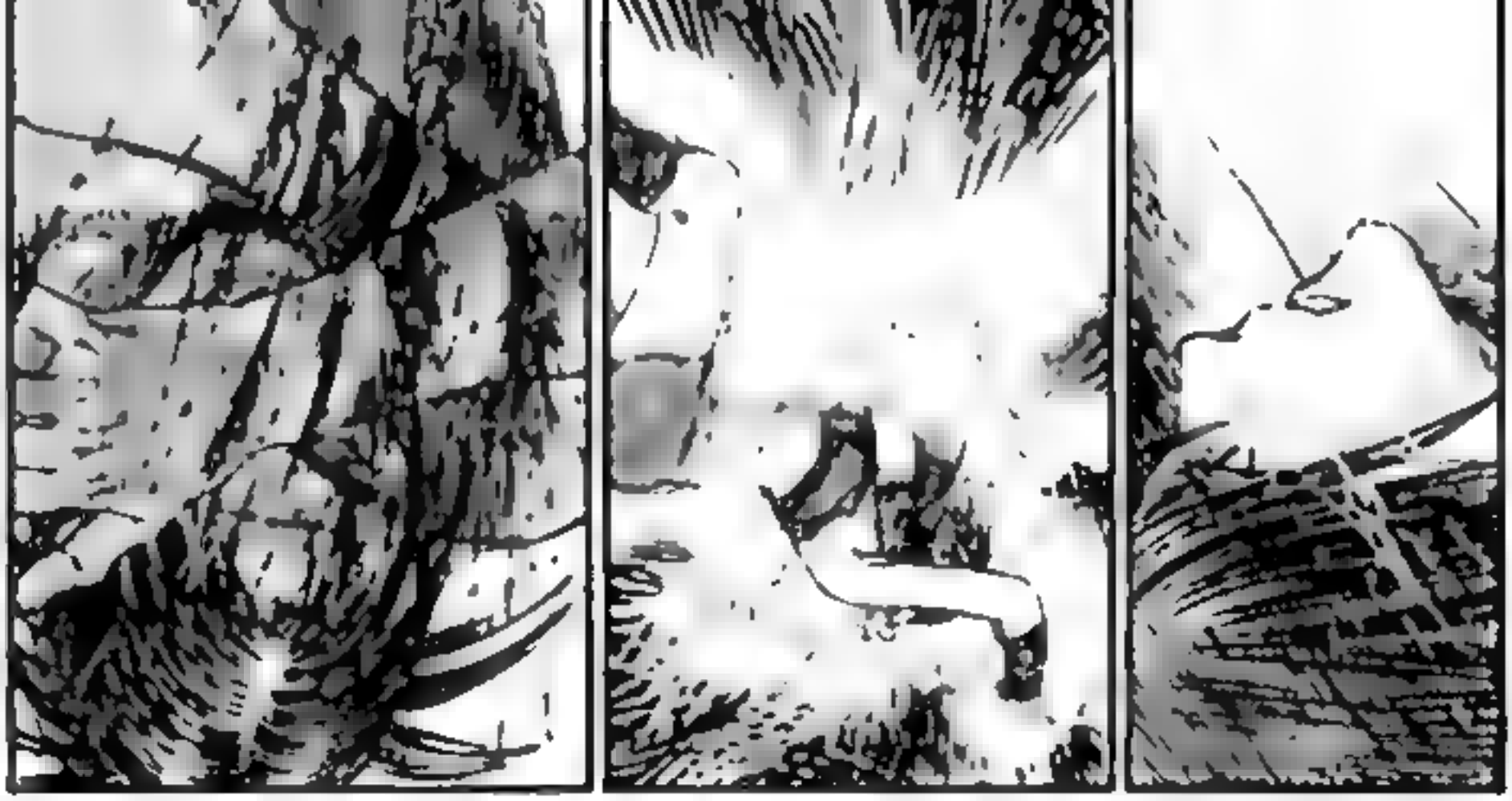
.....

.....

HOLY SHIT!

HIII ...

HIII ...



HOW DO WE KILL THIS THING?

YOU CAN NEITHER CAUSE A FATAL WOUND ---

---NOR CAN YOU CUT OFF HIS HEAD.

YOU CREATED A TRUE MONSTER.

PHEW ...

BURAN-DO, YOU BASTARD !!

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING, CREATING SUCH A THING?!

IF I'D KNOWN, I WOULD HAVE GONE FOR ITS ARMS AND LEGS.

IF ONLY I HAD A SWORD, MAYBE I ---

SHIT!

NO, MANJI!

RIN ...?

I HAVE AN IDEA!

DON'T WRAP THE CHAIN AROUND YOUR HANDS! LEAVE IT LOOSE!

I CAME DOWN HERE FOR SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT!

IT'S A MONSTER!

I DON'T CARE IF IT'S A VICTIM OF THESE EXPERI-MENTS!

CHAPTER 130 | END

CHAPTER 131
DEMON'S LAIR
PART 10

# ❖第百三十一幕❖
# 鬼の巣

NUMBER N-1

WHAT IS SHE UP TO ?

I SAID THAT MANJI'S LIFE IS MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAN THE LIFE OF ANY OTHER HUMAN

DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU THIS MORNING ?

DOA —

EIN —

AND I WILL STAY TRUE TO MY WORDS ...

DON'T BE FOO-LISH!

HOW ?

EH ?

WHAT ...?!

MANJI, DOA, LOOK CLOSELY ...

I KNOW! KILLING HIM WAS NEVER MY IN-TENTION ...

YOU CAN'T KILL THIS MONSTER WITH ONLY A SCALPEL !!

HII ...

HII ...

EH !?

I SEE ...

BW AH!

GRU AH!

GRU AH!

GR RRA AH!

MWA RGH!

!!

GRRA AH!

GRRRRAAAAAH...!

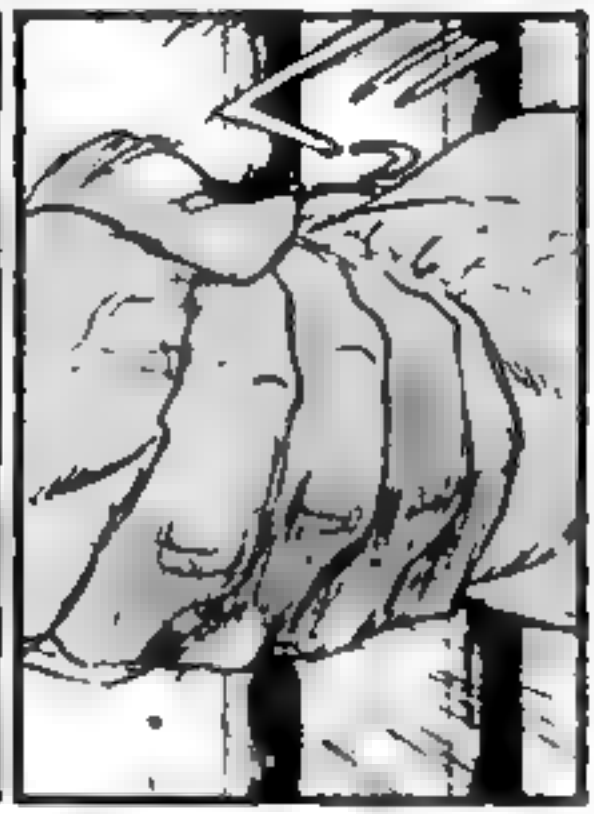
'SAKU!

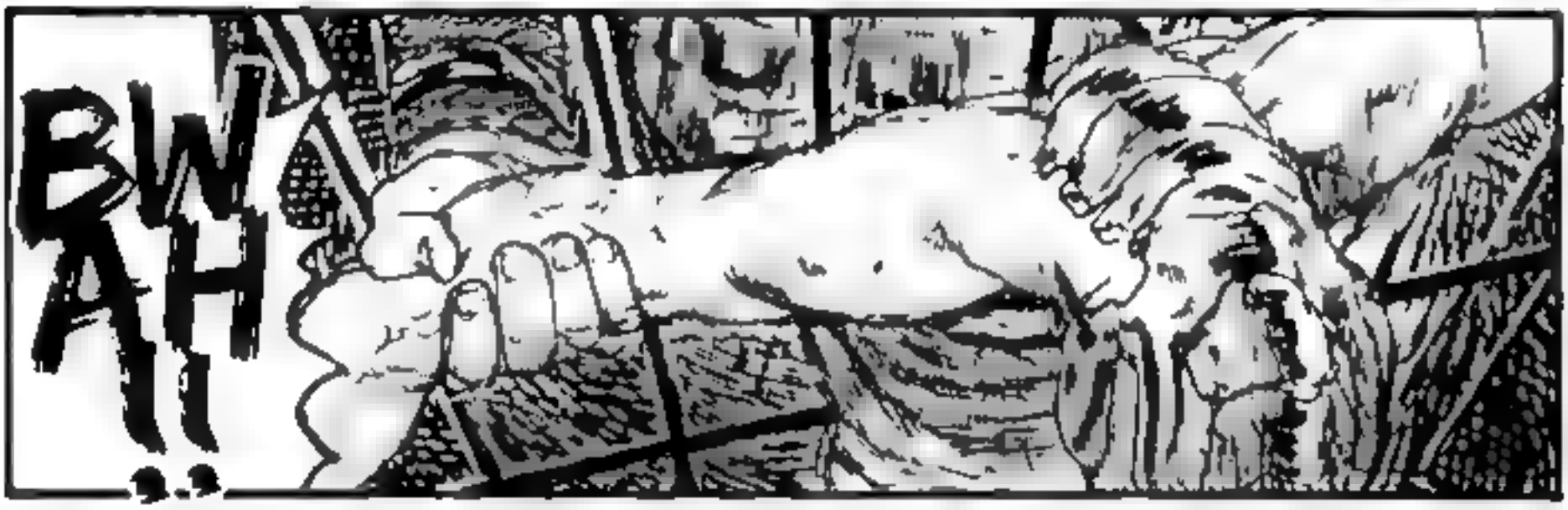
?!

BWAH
...

BWAA
RGH!

HM!




BW
AH

KCH
HH!
H!!!

GR
RRR
AH!

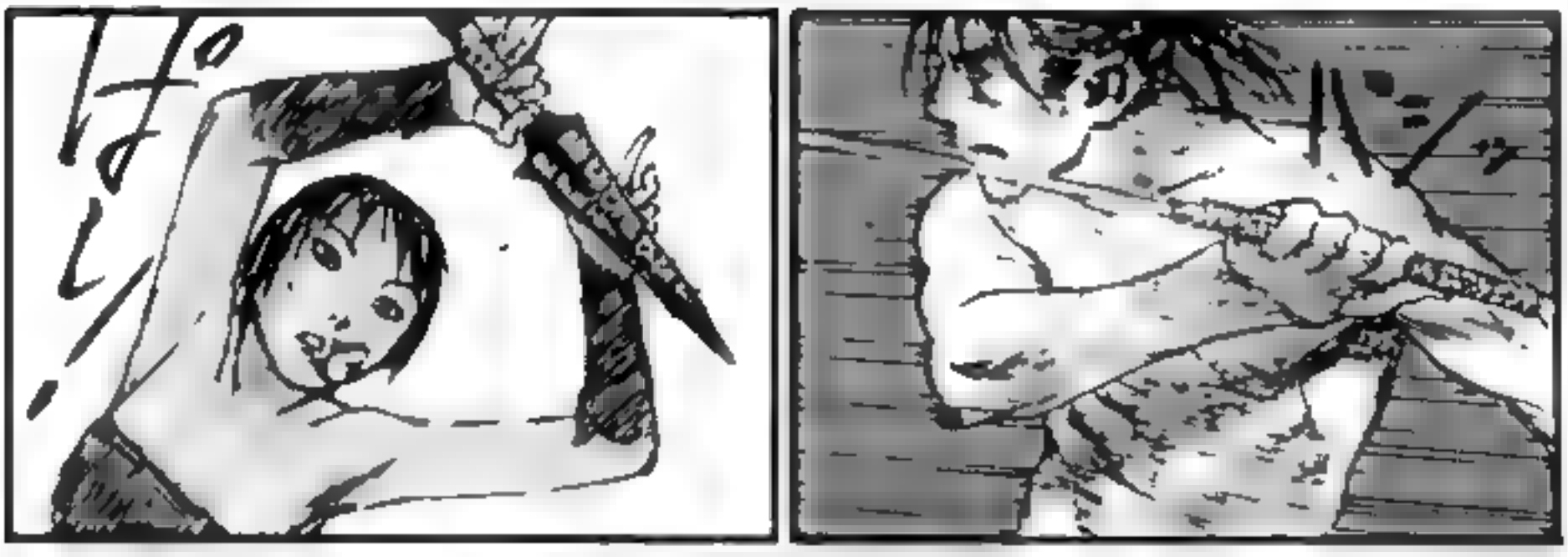
BWAAAH!

GR
RAA
AH!

BWA
AAAR
GH!

KCHI
HIII
...
HIII
...
...
HIII
...

DOA!
MANJI!



GR RAA AH!

BW AH!

HIII

GRRAAAH!

HY AAA AH!

ハシャ
ボチャン

HA!

HA ...

HAH!

HAH!

HA!

HA!

!!

AH ...!

AAAAH!

NUMBER N-1...!

.....
.....

.. HE WASN'T ABLE TO FIGHT ANY-MORE.

WITH HIS ARMS RIPPED OFF ...

DID YOU REALLY HAVE TO KILL HIM?

Hör Hör!

あわっ あわっ あわっ!

NONE OF THAT MATTERS!

AFTER ALL, THERE'S A DOCTOR PRESENT!

CUT THE CRAP!

RIPPING OFF ARMS, SLITTING STOMACHS OPEN ...

BUT HOW WAS HE SUPPOSED TO GO ON LIVING, HUH?!

WE DIDN'T WANT TO KILL HIM!

YOU BROUGHT HIM HERE TO FIGHT, DIDN'T YOU?!

HIS ONLY PURPOSE IN LIFE WAS TO KILL!

LOOK AT WHAT HE'S BECOME!

HOW MANY MORE DO YOU WANT TO CREATE IN THE FUTURE?!

HOW MANY OF THESE MONST-ROSITIES DID YOU CREATE?

COUNTLESS PEOPLE HAD TO DIE TO CREATE THIS! ARE YOU FREAKING CRAZY?!

HOW MANY PEOPLE DID YOU KILL FOR THIS?

DOES THIS LOOK LIKE THE RESULT HABAKI AND YOU SEARCHED FOR?!

YOU KILL HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE TO MAKE ONE PERSON IMMORTAL. DO YOU CALL THAT MEDICINE?!

YOU STOPPED BEING A DOCTOR AGES AGO.

FOR SOME-ONE LIKE YOU ...

...AND HERE NOW ...

DEWA-NOSUKE WAS STILL ALIVE ...

LET'S AS-SUME ..

...EVEN A HUNDRED DEATHS WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH.

I ONLY ONCE SAW AN INDICATION ...

.. THAT HIS LIFE WAS MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU THAN YOUR RESULTS.

HE WOULD PROBABLY SAY "DON'T KILL HIM!" ...

ONCE ...

BUT YOU COULDN'T EVEN MANAGE THAT ...

YES, FOR A SHORT MOMENT, YOU REALLY WANTED TO SAVE THE PATIENT'S LIFE.

THE DEAD SHALL BRING YOU NIGHT-MARES FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

YOUR DEATH WOULD BE MEANING-LESS.

THAT'S WHY I WON'T KILL YOU.

DOA, ISAKU ...

YOU SHOULD LEAVE THIS PLACE QUICKLY ...

HURRY, GO NOW ...!

GO, BEFORE SOMEONE COMES!

SEE?! NOBODY'S THERE! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR...?

AND YOU TWO ...?

WE'LL JOIN YOU ONCE WE GET RID OF MANJI'S CHAINS.

HE HE HE ...

WHAT ?!

I CAN BREAK THE CHAINS.

BWAH HA HA!

YOU KNOW SOME INTERESTING GUYS, RIN!

HEH, COME ON THEN, GO AHEAD ...!

CHAPTER 131 | END

# ❖第百三十二幕❖
# 鬼の巣
## 〈其の十一〉

## CHAPTER 132:
## DEMON'S LAIR
## PART 11

!!

UAAAH ...!

PUNCH!

DOA!

DOAAA...!

WHO KNOWS HOW FAR THE WATER WILL CARRY HER?!

!

HURRY, FOLLOW THE LITTLE GIRL!

IDIOT! FORGET ABOUT US!

DON'T PANIC!

THIS IS AN EMER-GENCY!

MA... MANJI! WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW...?!

BUT WE CAN'T WAIT UNTIL MY LIMBS HAVE GROWN TOGETHER AGAIN.

GET ON THE OPE-RATING TABLE!

WHY? IT'LL GO FASTER WITH YOUR SWORD!

YOU HAVE TO CUT OFF MY ARMS AND LEGS ...

WE'LL PRO-CEED AS PLAN-NED.

YOU, OF COURSE!

WHAAT?!

WHO'S SUP-POSED TO CARRY THEM?!

YES... EH?!

THERE'S NO OTHER WAY BUT TO CARRY THEM WITH US.

UHH ...

YOU SURE ARE A BRAVE GIRL!

OH WELL, LET'S GO!

FIRST ...

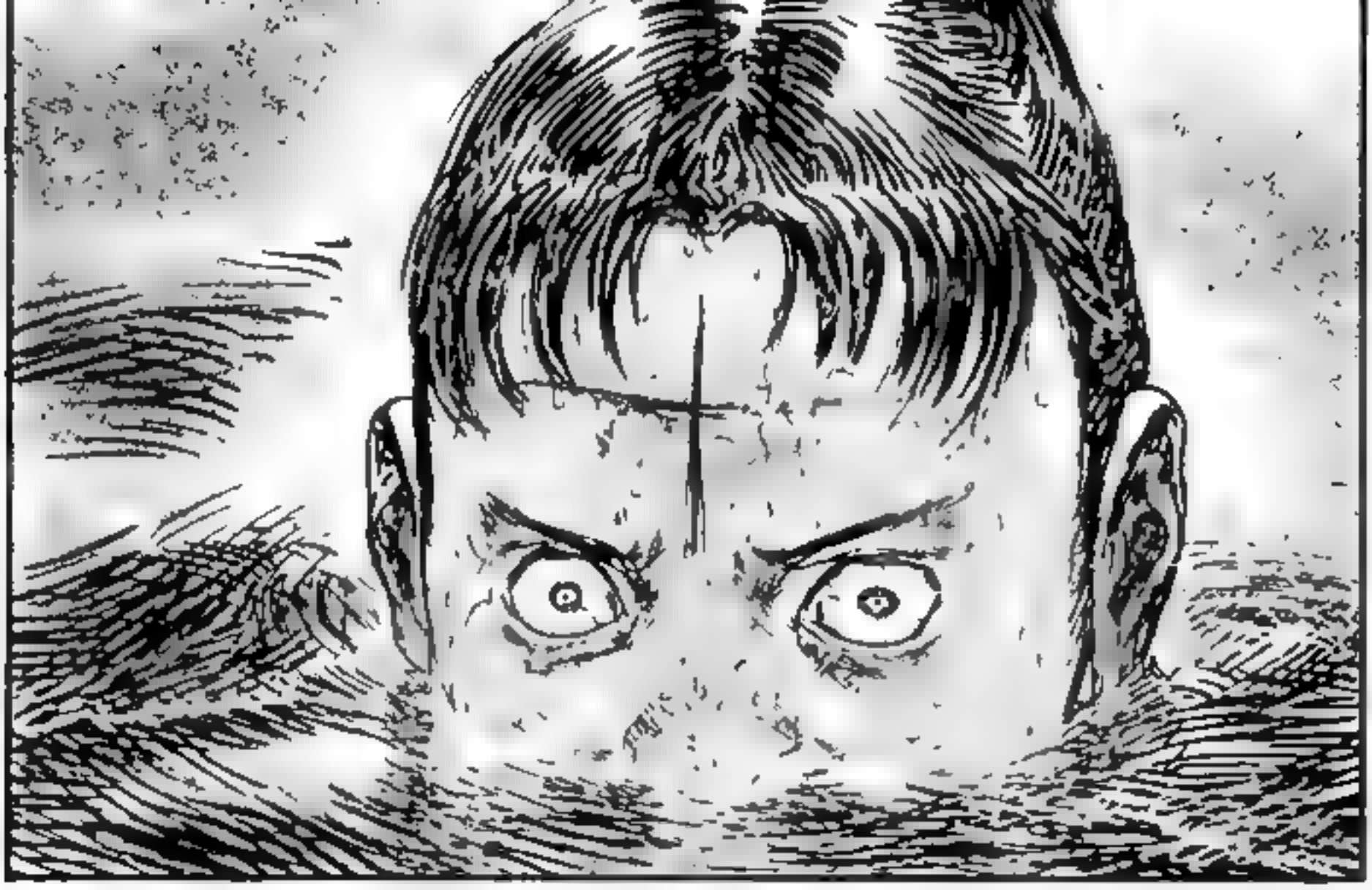
AH ...

WHAT ..?

MANJI ?!

HOW IS THAT PO--?!

WHAT ...?



PWAH ...!

"OH, BAT..."

TO HOLD ONE'S BREATH AND PLAY DEAD UNTIL THERE'S AN OPPORTUNITY, THAT'S THE "BAT".

AT MY AGE, I CAN ONLY MANAGE TO HOLD MY BREATH FOR FOUR AND A HALF MINUTES

"FLYING IN CIRCLES THROUGH THE CAVE, WHAT A DANGEROUS ART"

OH ...!

UNGH ...

YOU'RE ALIVE!

MASTER YAMADA!

I DIDN'T KILL HUMANS FOR CENTURIES AND LEARN NOTHING.

THE TRICK ONLY WORKED BECAUSE MANJI USED A SCALPEL.

...SO THAT THE BLADE HIT BETWEEN THE ARTERY AND THE TRACHEA

...JUST BEFORE I WAS HIT ...

I TURNED MY HEAD SLIGHTLY ...

I GUESS HE DID BREAK A FEW RIBS.

...WAS MUCH MORE PAINFUL.

MANJI STEPPING ON MY CHEST AFTER-WARDS ...

I'LL BE SURE TO RETURN THE FAVOR, MANJI.

IRON CRU-SHER!

MANJI
...

DO YOU REMEMBER THE STORY ABOUT THE FRESH LIVER?

HE HE HE ...

YOU JUST WON'T GIVE UP, EH?

...I ALSO HAVE TUBER-CULOSIS.

AS YOU CAN SEE ...

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?

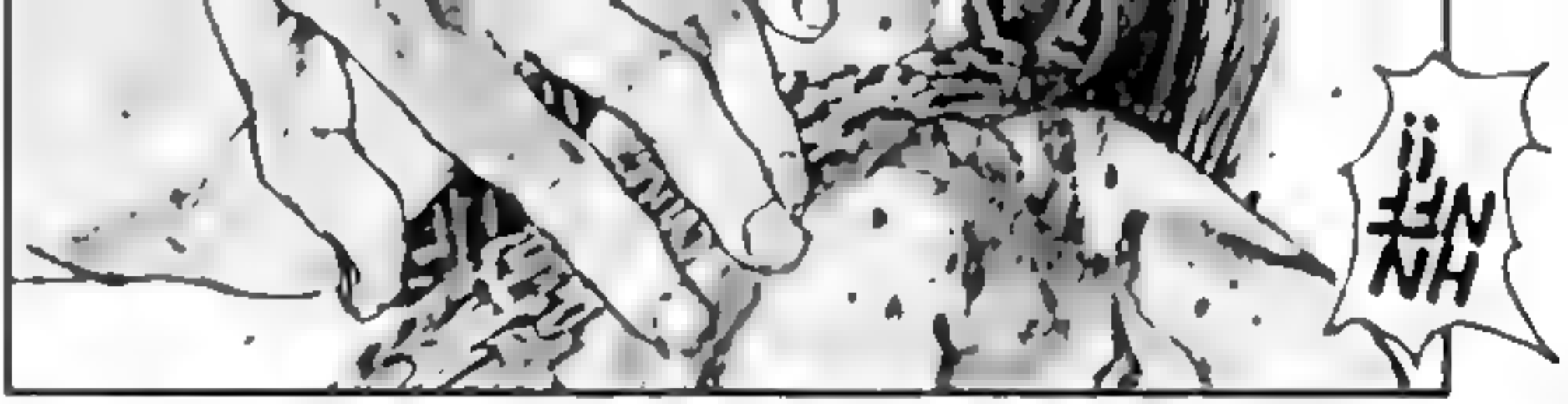
...THAT IT'LL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO CURE WITHOUT YOUR LIVER.

I FEAR ...

I'LL CUT OFF YOUR LIMBS BEFORE THAT.

DOES THAT MEAN I'LL BE SLICED UP AT YOUR PLACE NEXT?

AND NOW THE FIGHT ONE!


ÏÏNNH

4




ïé
...

HYAAAAH!

PIN, PULL UP THE CHAIN!

Y- YES!

カ"カ"カ"カ"

HMPH !!

UA AA AH !!

MASTER!

IRON CRU-SHER ..

KCHHHH ...

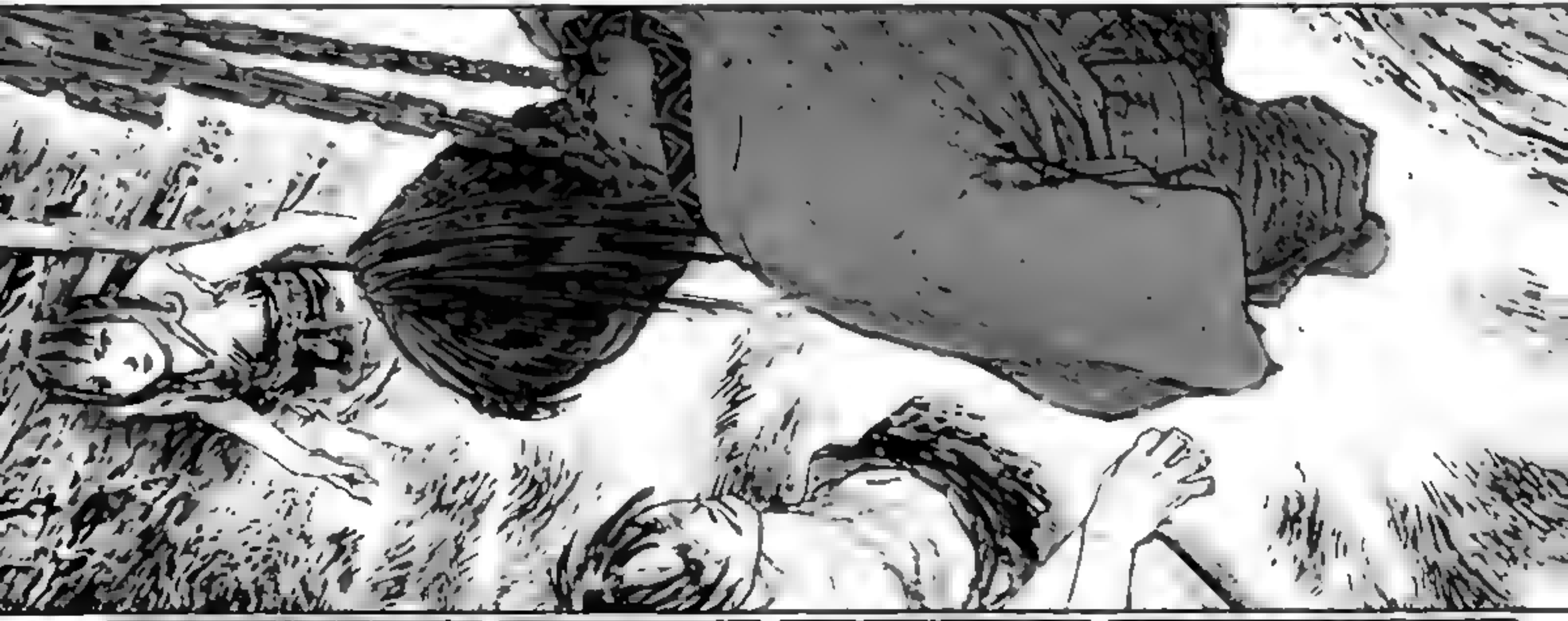
HNGH ...

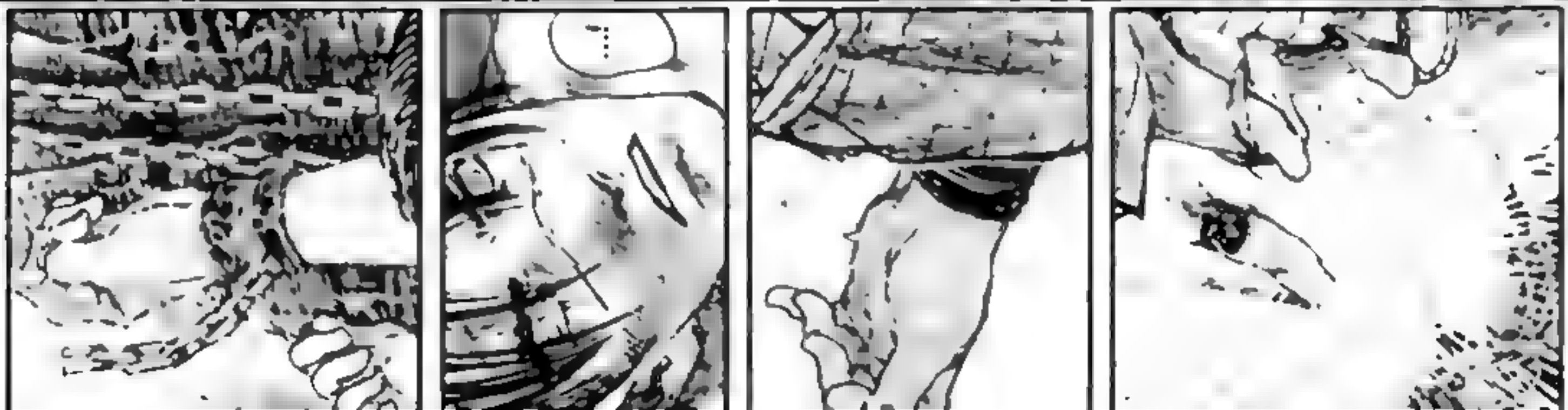
UA AAH ...!

MAST-...

IRON CRU-SHER.

IRON CRU-SHER.



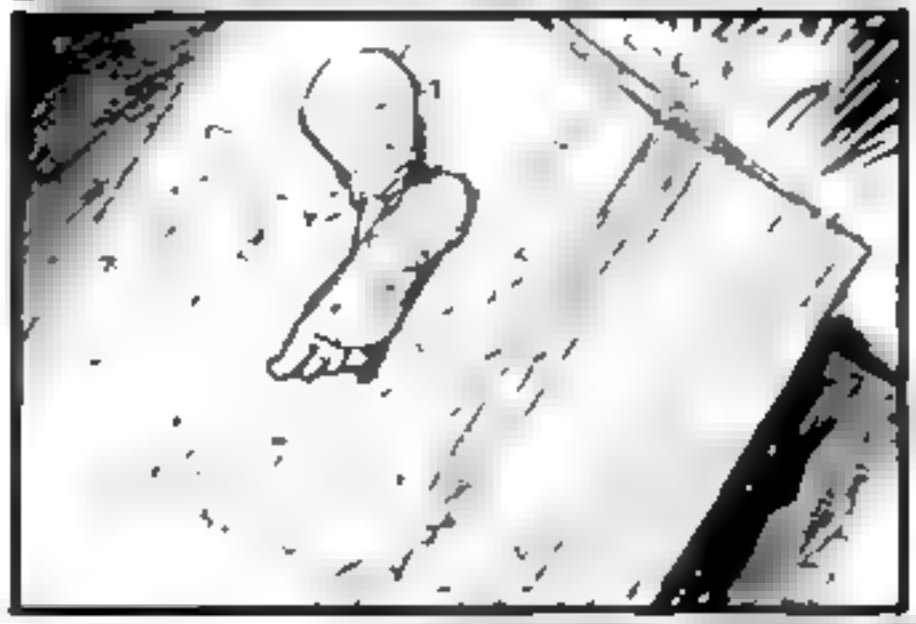


MANJI !!

?!

UA AHH !

AH!



# 同オオ・・・

HANG IN THERE, MANJI!

UNGH ...

PLEASE MY ARM !

FIN ...

KCH
..

AH
...!

WHO ARE YOU ...?!

WHAT ...?

CHAPTER 132 | END

CHAPTER 130
DEMON'S LAIR
PART 2

# 第百三十三話
# 鬼の巣

WHO ARE YOU?
WAIT...!
THIS MASK!
I KNOW YOU ...

ドド
ドド

AH
...

AH
...!!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

HOW ...?

YOU ...?

WHAT ...?

..THE ARM!

...GIVE ME...

PLEASE

LISTEN ...

.....
.....

...RENZO!

PLEASE ...

THIS ARM IS VERY IMPOR-TANT TO ME.

YOU DON'T NEED IT, RIGHT?

BUT I ...

AH...!

THANK YOU ...

...?

!!

WHERE'S MY ARM?

RIN ...

PLEASE HURRY UP...!

...THE BLOOD... WILL...

THE KESSEN-CHU... IN THE WATER, THEY CAN'T ...

.....
.....

RE...

RENZO
...

RENZOO
OOOO!!

!!

YOU'RE AN IDIOT!

WHY DID YOU GO IN THERE?

DO YOU WANT TO SWIM TO THE OTHER SIDE?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

THIS VOICE ...

RENZO ...

...?

...OR I'LL GIVE YOU A GOOD BEATING.

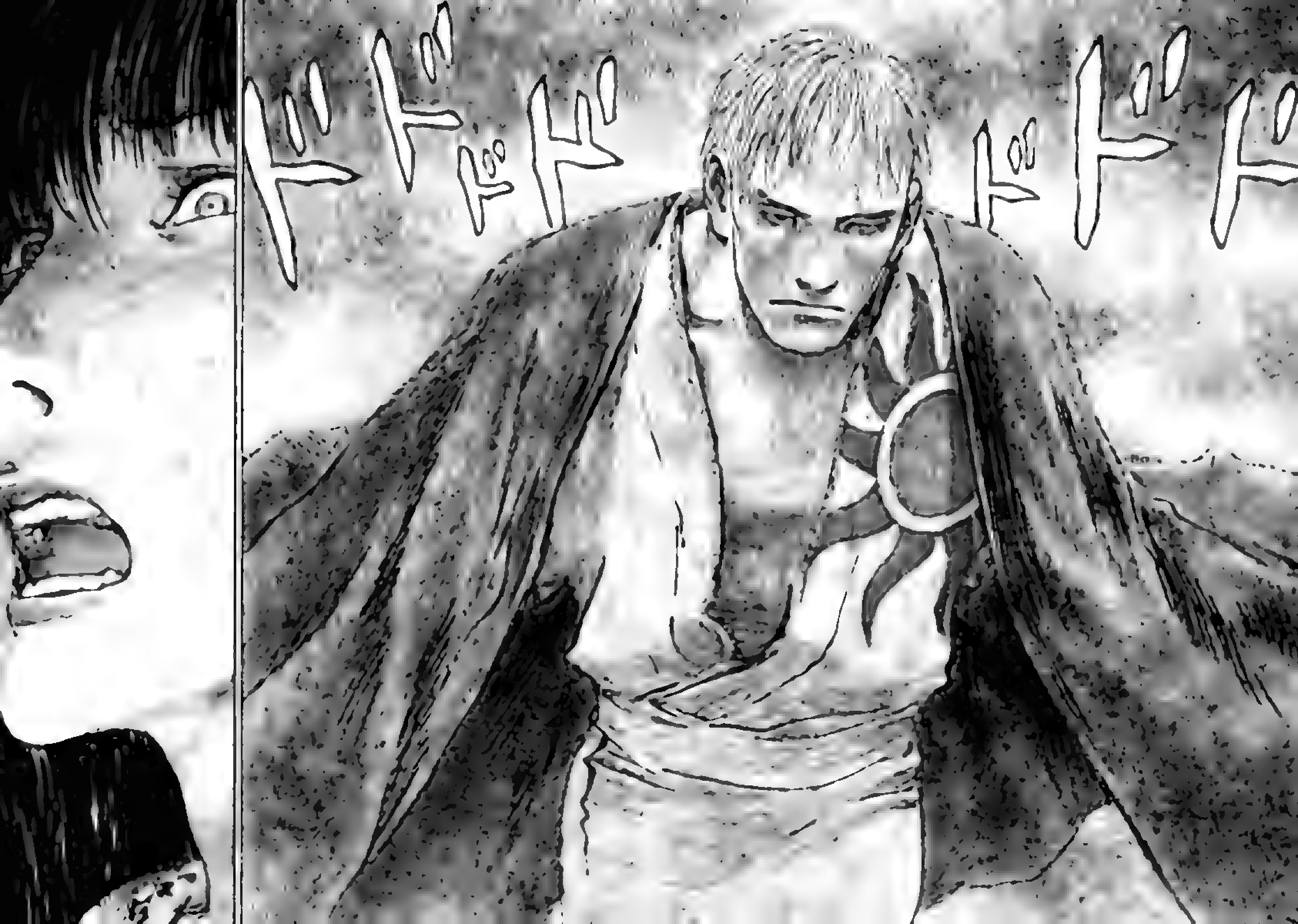
YOU BETTER COME QUICK ...

COME BACK!

THAT ...

AH ...!

# THE END


ドドドド
ドドドド

RENZO
....!

sì

WHO'S THE ONE WHO CAN BARELY STAND?

..THE GUY WHO KILLED YOUR FATHER.

IF IT AIN'T ...

OH, LOOK AT THIS.

HE HE HE ...

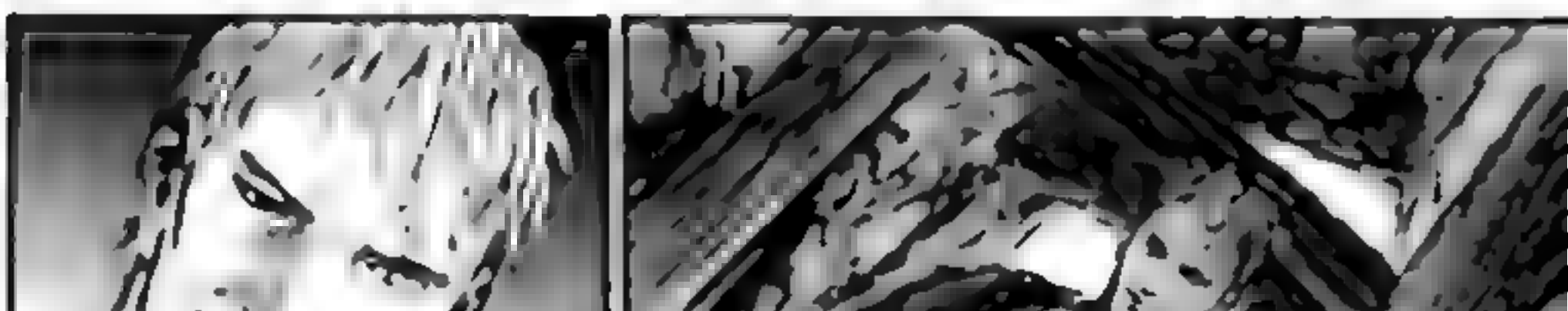
WHAT DO YOU SAY ...?

SHOULD I HELP YOU AVENGE YOUR FATHER?

OH WELL ...

RENZO ...

OH


ME
ME ME
ME


THIS
MAN IS

HA
HA
HA!

BWAHA HA HA HAAA!

MANJI ...!

I'LL KILL YOU BEFORE SPRING ARRIVES!

I'LL KILL YOU BEFORE SPRING ARRIVES!

HAVE FUN TILL THEN, YOU TWO!

FWAAAH...!

HFF ...

I'M DROWNING...!

...ぇ?

ごぶっ!

!!

UA AA AH !!

UA AA AH !!

WHAT I DID WAS WRONG !!

HELP
HELP
HELP
PEACE ON EARTH
I PRAY YOU !!

...
!!

HOLD ONTO ME ...

... JIRAIYA!

YOU
...

..BRO-
THER
... ?!

STOP, MISTER MURA-UCHI!

WHAT? GO AWAY!

AIM AT THE MOB; WE'LL TEACH THE PLEBS A LESSON!

THEY'RE STILL HERE?!

IF THAT'S HOW IT IS ...

I THINK THERE'S NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO OPEN THE GATE, IF YOU WANT TO SOLVE THE SITUATION.

I'VE ASKED AROUND IN THE PALACE ...

...NOBODY REMEMBERS TURNING THESE PEOPLE IN.

I'M IN COMMAND, AS LONG AS HABAKI'S ASLEEP!

DIDN'T KAGIMURA HABAKI ORDER US TO KEEP EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL UNTIL HE COMES BACK?

ARE YOU ASKING ME TO LET THE LEADERS ESCAPE UN-PUNISHED?

IDI-OT!

SI-LEN-CE!

UNGH ...

JUST FIRE A WARNING SHOT.

BUT THAT COULD BE THE LAST DROP!

WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF WE DECIDE TO SHOOT AT THE MOB!

BUT THEIR NUMBERS HAVE IN-CREASED!

KONO, TERASHIMA, SOMA, KAIJWARA, BRING THE BOWS!

SOME-BODY CALL THE FIRE SHOO-TERS!

MISTER SHI-NODA ...

UMPH!

PARDON ME!

I'LL VOUCH WITH MY LIFE IF ANYTHING HAPPENS!

OPEN THE KAJI-BASHI GATE!

I'M CONVINCED IT'S POSSIBLE

WHATEVER HABAKI AND MURAICHI SAY, THIS MATTER CAN BE SOLVED WITHOUT BLOODSHED.

?

SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED DURING YOUR MISSION ...

DID YOU DO AS YOU WERE TOLD?

ALRIGHT ALRIGHT! BE QUIET!

AH ..

OH, IT'S YOU ...

IS THIS THE WORK OF ISAKU AND DOJI?

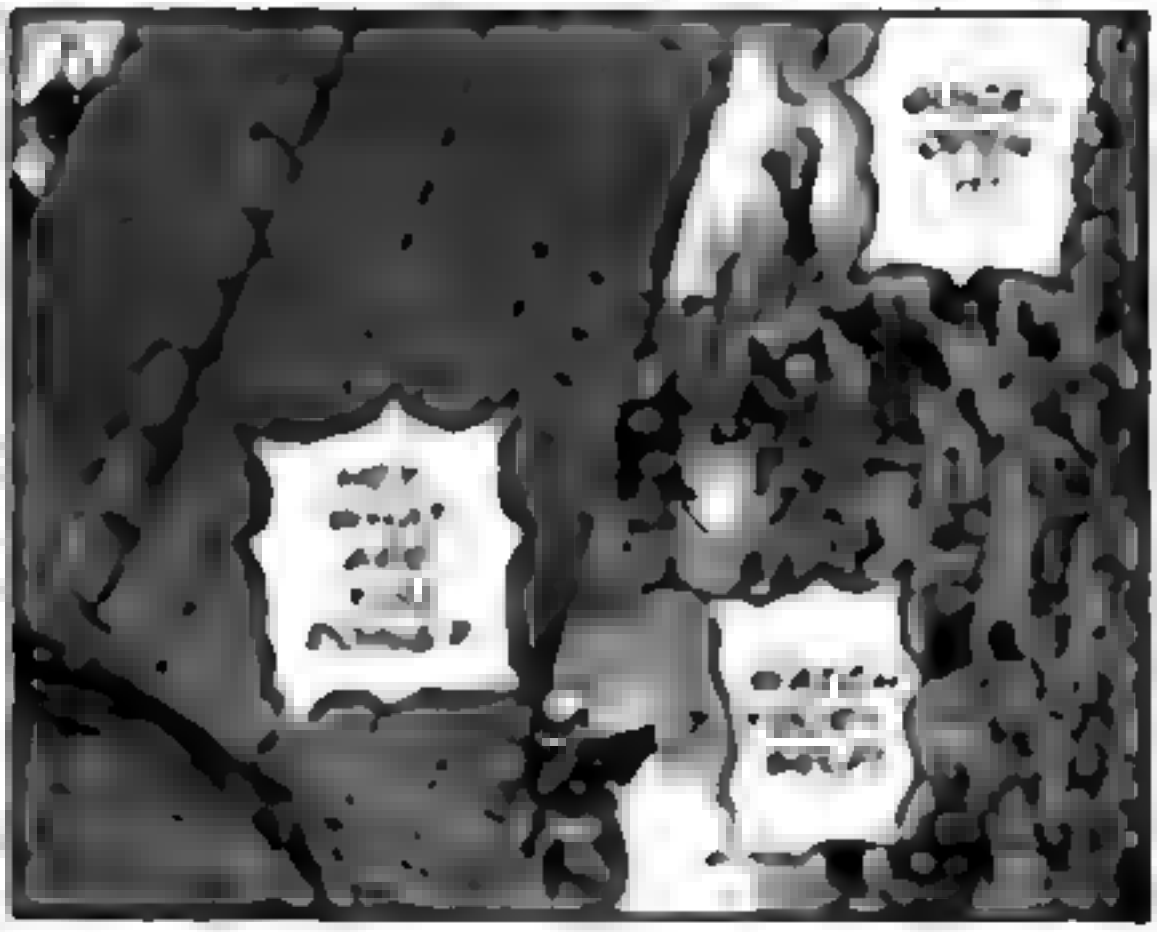
CHAPTER 133 | END

OPEN THE GATE! OPEN THE GATE!

# 第百三十四話 改臓肢儀

CHAPTER 134
ABSTRACT ON
TRANSPLANTATION
LAST CHAPTER

HEEEY!



BE CAREFUL TO NOT EMBRACE THE WRONG ONE!

GO, HURRY!

WHAT A HISTORIC DAY!

MY GRANDSON! THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE HAS OPENED THE CASTLE GATES.

..I CAN'T SEE YOU!

BUT, MY BELOVED GRANDSON ... AMONGST ALL THESE PEOPLE...

WHAT A SIGHT!

YOU SWINE! IENARI*, YOU BASTARD! WHAT DID YOU DO?! YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO ATONE FOR THIS!

SUCH INJUSTICE!

* (NAME T[illegible] WAS THE [illegible] AT THAT TIME)

AH!

HELP!

UH ...?

OOPS!

GO TO HELL!

SEI-JU!

UAH!

HEY, YOU THREE!

HM ?

EVERY-THING OKAY?

Y-YES .

WHAT IS ...

LISTEN !

HIII ...

OUCH !

I WAS A GUARD IN THE DUNGEON UNTIL YESTERDAY EVENING.

...!!

IT ALSO MEN-TIONED ..

...THAT THEY WERE DRESSED AS DOCTORS.

A MESSAGE FOR THOSE WHO KNOW ABOUT THE PRISON JUST ARRIVED ...

...OPENED THE DUNGEON AND FREED THE PRISONERS.

IT STATED THAT SOME INDIVIDUALS WITH A PERMIT FROM THE COUNCIL ...

NOW COME WITH ME FOR A BODY SEARCH.

IF WE FIND THAT PERMIT, WE FIND THEM.

WHAT ?

IT STATES THAT THREE DOCTORS WERE CAUGHT AT THE SUKIYA-BASHI GATE.

THEY HAD THE PERMIT.

WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT.

A NEW MESSAGE ARRIVED JUST A SECOND AGO.

THAT'S NOT THEM!

HEY, WAIT!

?!

SO THESE GUYS ARE COMMON PRISO-NERS? STRANGE ...

THEY SUPPOSEDLY CONFESSED ALREADY. SHALL WE TAKE A LOOK?

THE MESSAGE JUST ARRIVED!

WHY DIDN'T ANYONE TELL ME?

YES... THANKS !

GO!

WELL, SCRAM!

HM?! MISTER KARUKO-ZAWA!

DON'T PUSH!

HEY!

I WAS LUCKY TO GET FLUSHED OUT HERE ..

HEEH!

I THOUGHT I WAS A GONER WHEN THE WATER GOT ME ...

UAH ...!

HELP!

A GHOST! A MONS-TER!

UH .. EXCUSE ME ..

COULD YOU LEND ME SOME MONEY?

!!!

LOOK AFTER THE GIRL!

I'M JUST GOING TO GET SOME CLOTHES ..

.....

.....

SO THAT'S HOW WE MEET AGAIN SCHNOZZLE

DOCTOR KURATA ..

BROTHER .. NO ..

HE JUST WANTED TO LEAVE FOR EUROPE.

HE WOULDN'T LET ANY-ONE STOP HIM, NOT HIS MASTER, NOT MYSELF.

I USED TO KNOW A WOULD-BE DOCTOR ...

BUT TODAY I NO LONGER BLAME HIM.

BACK THEN I CONDEMNED HIM. WE COULD STUDY WESTERN MEDICINE IN JAPAN JUST AS WELL.

SEE ..

TAKE A LOOK DOWN THERE.

.. IF WE SHARE THE SAME GOAL, OUR PATHS SHALL CROSS ONCE MORE.

REGARD-LESS OF WHERE WE STUDY, OR WHAT WE LEARN ..

THIS IS THE COMMON GOAL OF EASTERN AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

.. AND THEY'RE HAPPY TO SEE THE OTHERS ARE HEALTHY TOO.

EVERY-BODY'S HAPPY THAT THEY'RE HEALTHY ...

I'M SURE HE STILL FOLLOWS THAT PATH. I AM CONVINCED OF IT.

COUGH !

UH ..

MASTER ...!

MY INCOM-
PETENCE
IS INEX-
CUSABLE
...

I HAD
TO WATCH
YOU DIE
BECAUSE
I CAN'T
SWIM
..

NOW
THAT I
THINK
OF IT
...

YOUR
UNWORTHY
SERVANT
BENKI WILL
DO HIS
DUTY.

DO
NOT BE
CON-
CERNED,
MASTER
.

I CAN'T
REMEM-
BER

WHAT
WAS
IT?

"ASAEMON YAMADA
DIED AT THE AGE OF 49
THIS FAREWELL POEM
:OH, CRICKET BUZZING
THROUGH HELL, WHAT
ARTIFICIAL DANGER!"

IT SHALL
BE YOUR
FAREWELL
POEM.

YOU
QUOTED
A POEM IN
THE MIDDLE
OF THE
FIGHT
...

WHAT
DID HE
SAY ?

?

AND HAD
SOMETHING
TO DO WITH
"HELL"

IT
STARTED
WITH AN
ANIMAL

I'M SORRY... I WASN'T CAREFUL ENOUGH ...

AH, I REMEMBER! ASANO RIN ...

WHAT WAS HER NAME AGAIN...?

BUT SHE CAME WITH ANOTHER GIRL INTO MY SHOP ...

WITH THE MAP AND THE POWDER

I ASSUMED IT TO BE TOO HEAVY FOR DOA

HA ...!

SEEMS LIKE SHE'S DOING WELL .. HAHA!

WELL, I NEVER!

HAHA HA!

TWO LITTLE GIRLS DID THAT.

THE MASSES OF PEOPLE. THE SMOKE.

LOOK!

AH!

DAMN IT! WAIT!

BUT IT HASN'T! LOOK!

IT'S ...

YOUR WOUND SHOULD HEAL BEFORE IT CAN SWELL.

WE ARE IMMOR-TALS!

!

GICHI! OVER HERE!

..DAMN ..

NO

DO YOU FIND HER ?!

BUT DIDN'T SURVIVE THEM-SELVES ?

THEY FREED SO MANY PRISO-NERS ..

FORGET IT... THE AREA IS TOO BIG.

I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR THEM THE WHOLE TIME.

COULD THEY USE IT TO ESCAPE?

THE EXPLOSION DESTROYED THE INNER MOAT.

?

...

ANOTHER EXIT...

THEY ONLY OPENED THIS GATE.

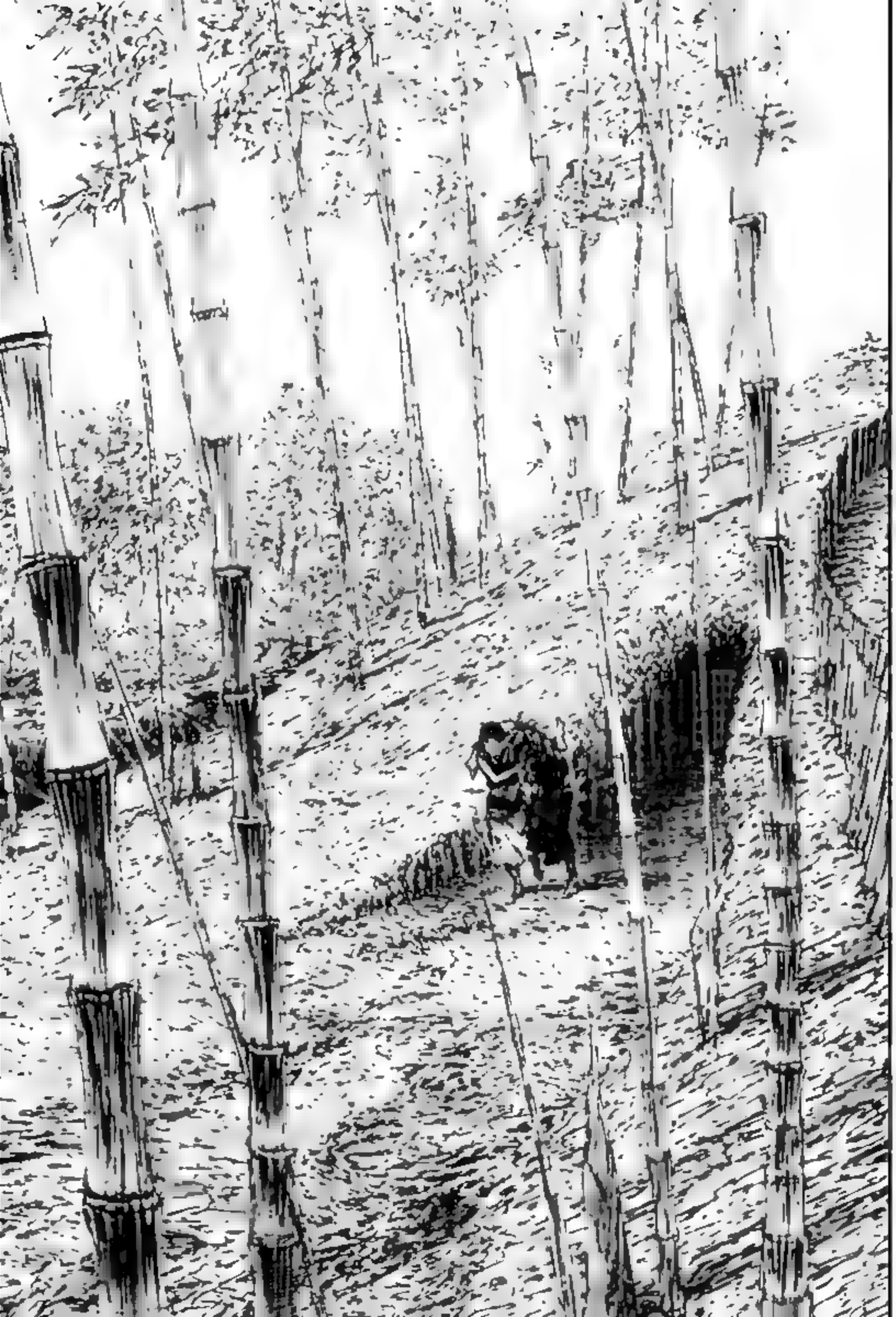
HA

HA

HA

HEY, HYAKU-RIN!

HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HAA
HA



AH! SORRY!

OW..

YOU'RE AWAKE?

TSS!

HOW ELSE WOULD I WALK?!

HE HE...

BWAH!

HEY, WHAT'S THE MATTER?

HM?! UMPH...

PWAHH...!

..HOW ARE YOU FEE-LING ?

..I FEEL GREAT.

AT THE MOMENT ...

ACTUALLY I'M HUNGRY TOO

CAN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR ONCE?

AND HUNGRY!

HEAVE-HO!

HM...?

SAKI! LEAVE THE MOAT!

SORRY, SANE!

I STILL WANT TO PLAY!

LOOK AT THIS...

AMAZING!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, KEI?

THE HAIR PIN I LOST! OF ALL THINGS...!

"ABSTRACT ON TRANS-PLANTATION" - LAST CHAPTER

I CONCLUDE ..

...THAT I WAS DELUDED TO BELIEVE I HAD FOUND THE SECRET OF IMMORTALITY.

...WILL LOSE THEIR IMMORTALITY AND HEALING ABILITY BEFORE SPRING ARRIVES.

TO MY KNOWLEDGE, THERE IS NO WAY TO RETAIN THE EFFECTS.

THE PATIENTS I OPERATED ON...

WITH TIME I BELIEVE OTHERS WILL COME TO THIS SAME CONCLUSION.

I MUST THINK ABOUT SOME-THING ELSE.

NO! I HAVE TO PUT A STOP TO THIS!

WITH ONE EXCEP-TION ...

ONE MAN ...

...BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T NEED IT?

YES THAT HAS TO BE IT

WHY DIDN'T I MANAGE ...

TO MAKE EVEN ONE PRISONER IMMORTAL?

I SHOULD ASK MYSELF ...

...WHY DID IT FAIL?

I CAN NO LONGER DISMISS THIS THOUGHT ...

AS FOOLISH CHATTER FROM THOSE CHINESE SCIENTISTS.

THAT'S WHY HIS IMMORTALITY IS OVERSHADOWED BY PAIN.

I SUBCONSCIOUSLY FELT THAT

MANJI ...

THIS MAN WAS GIVEN IMMORTALITY BY SOMEONE ..

.. BECAUSE HE NEEDED IT.

AROSE SOMEWHERE IN MY MIND.

...THIS SUSPICION ...

WHEN I WAS REPEATING THE EXPERIMENTS, DAY AFTER DAY...

IF ONLY ...

...I HAD ADMITTED THAT TO MYSELF EARLIER!

IF I WERE IN HIS PLACE, WOULD I WANT TO LIVE LIKE THAT?

NO! ABSOLUTELY NOT!

AND THAT'S GOOD, IT'S ENOUGH.

WE ARE NOT ENDOWED BY ETERNAL LIFE, BUT BY AN ENDING LIFE.

THAT'S WHAT MAKES A DOCTOR ---

A MONTH LATER

A YOUNG TRAVELING MONK BEGAN VISITING THE FAMILIES OF THE DECEASED

IS THIS THE HOME OF DEWANO-SUKE?

CHAPTER 134 | END

# APPENDIX

# 漫画界を揺らせる沙村広明33の!!!のべつまくなし悪業!!

## 超話題!!!

●取材・文　本誌取材班

**手抜きか、疲れか、作風か？「無限の住人」最新巻収録原稿の一部に未完の過去発覚！真っ白な原稿が物語るのは、真っ赤なウソに塗り固められた、某漫画家の真っ黒な過去か――!?**

仮に実力が、とあるアイドルやバンドのライブに行ったとしよう。ところが、生で聴いてみると、CDとは似ても似つかぬド下手さで聴くに堪えず、以後すっかり冷めてしまった……。このような経験をお持ちの方は割と多いのではないだろうか。

要は、現代のレコーディング技術では、いかに歌が下手クソであろうと、いかようにも補正がきくし、演奏力がないなら、代わりの人間に演奏させれば、それで済むわけである。言い換えるなら"本当の実力"を偽ることなど、造作も無いことなのだ。

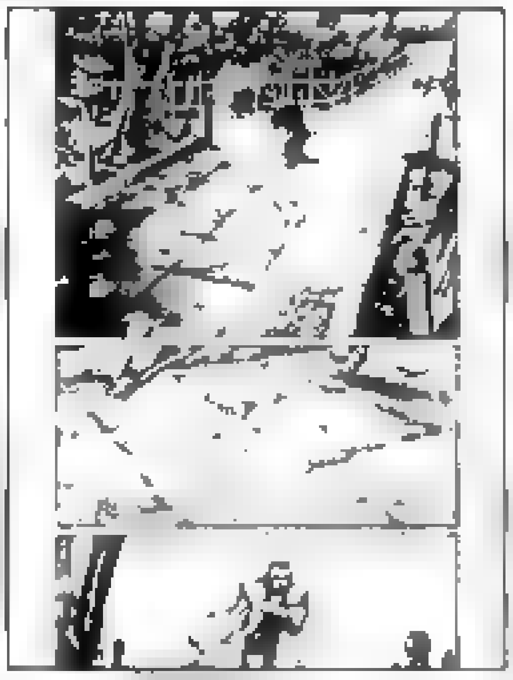
とはいえ、こんな詐欺がまかり通るのは芸能界だけかと思いきや、なんと漫画界にも、これと同様の手口で実力を偽る「疑惑の人物」が存在するという。

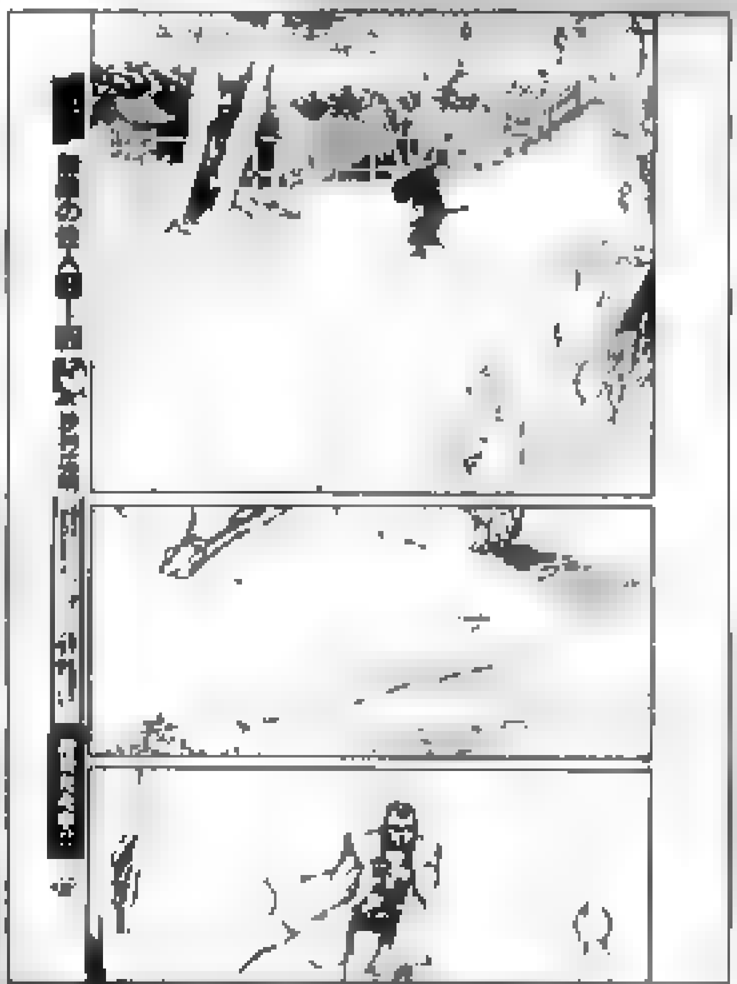
その疑惑の人物とは、本誌読者にもお馴染みの沙村広明（26）。持ち前の両刀で幅広い支持を集める売れっ子漫画家である。代表作「無限の住人」は国内だけで、なんと累計300万部以上を売り上げているという。ある漫画ファンは語る。

「ずーっと好きで連載でもチェックしてるんですけど、レよっちゅう絵がスカスカな状態

海外での人気を裏付ける多種多様な「無限の住人」海外版。10ヵ国以上で刊行されていると言えば聞こえはいいが　その総部数は「ナショナル・シオグラフィック」の足元にもおよびません。

最新の単行本では左の状態の原稿も、初出時は右のとおり。それでも原稿料は変わらないってんだから漫画界って楽しいんですね。





で蘇るんです。初めは、そういう作風に転じたのかなーとも思ったんですけど、単行本だとキレイに描きなおしてある。ここ半年くらいは連載もキレイな絵ですけど、一体どういう事情で?って疑問は残ってますね」

確かに疑問である。ミュージシャンに例えるなら、単行本とは、いわばCD。そして連載とは、いうならばライブである。単行本では圧倒的な画力を見せつけておきながら、連載においては上手いとも下手とも判然としない原稿を掲載し、お茶を濁す……。にわかにキナ臭くなってくるではないか。

「単行本で見る限りは日本漫画界でも有数の画力を持った漫画家さんだと思うんです。でも、連載で見ると、これとても同じとは思えない時がある……やはりスタジオで作られた画力だったんでしょうか」(前出漫画ファン)

近年の漫画テクノロジーの向上は、音楽業界と同じく、下手な絵を上手そうにデッチあげられるほどにまで進化したというのであろうか。しかし、だとしたら何故、あえて下手な漫画家を上手に見せかける必要があるのか。上手い描き手は他にもたくさんいるはずではないか。

「要するに、版元が沙村に投資したカネを回収するまで、アーティストイメージを損なうわけにはいかん、ということです」とは、ある業界無関係者の弁。

「沙村は10年ほど前、四季賞で大賞を受賞し、デビューしたわけなんですが、その際、所属するK講社が、沙村を"次世代の大才"として売り出すため、一大プロジェクトをブチ上げたんです。『無限の住人』をベストセラーにしようと、日本中の高層ビルに全巻の広告をペイントしたり、全巻の旗をかたどった飛行船を飛ばしたりと、列島全土がむげにんづくしのフィーバーぶりでした。こうした宣伝につぎ込まれたカネは、一説には30億とも50億ともいわれています。ところが、単行本の実売は、当時で15万部そこそこ。新人の数字としては充分優秀ですが、売り上げ的には投資額の数十分の一でしかない。これではプロジェクトとしては大コケもいいところです」(前出無関係者)

まったく事実と異なる気もする証言ながら、なんとも呆れた内幕である。オマケに連載を始めてみれば、売りであったはずの画力まで「お粗末でした」ではやりきれない。単行本の画力が、いくら優れていたとて、漫画家の本領は、あくまで連載。ここ数ヵ月、連載の出来がいいからといって、沙村の画力を信頼しすぎると、読者はバカを見ることになりそうだ。

## 『おひっこし』の真の作者はチャイナドレスの美少女!?
## 一枚で二度オイシイ四ねぎ女は毒牙にかければ公私ともに大充実
## 鬼畜漫画家なら朝メシ前にこっつぁんです!!

毎度お騒がせ漫画家の沙村広明(33)。次なる疑惑は、さらにディープだ。沙村が"竹易てあし"の変名で『おひっこし』などの漫画を発表しているのは周知の事実。ところが、実は竹易は沙村の変名などではなく、実在する別人であるというのだ。自称竹易てあしの知人が語る。

「てあしちゃんはよっすぃー似でチャイナドレスが似合う沙村好みの美少女だったんです。それが『無限の住人』ファンだったばっかりに、沙村にオモチャにされて……それで××が▲▲するぐらい●●を(以下略)」

要約すると竹易が持ち込んだ『おひっこし』等の原稿を、沙村は勝手に自作として発表。ペンネームも"竹易てあしこと沙村広明"と改め、印税を一人占めしてしまったというのである。確かに当時『無限』とは、あまりにかけ離れた作風に驚いた読者も多かったが、沙村に憧れる別

せっかく面白い漫画を描いたのに 女の操のみならず著作権まで沙村に奪われた竹易サン(左) ご存命の節は告発ノートをぜひ小誌で!

# もはや止まるところを知らない醜聞帝に、またも浮上した最新疑惑はご多分に漏れぬ薬物疑惑！

## 来年創設未定のK談社漫画賞・悪人漫画家部門、初の受賞者は沙村広明で決定か……？

人が、その絵を模倣しながら描いた作品であるとすれば合点がいく。

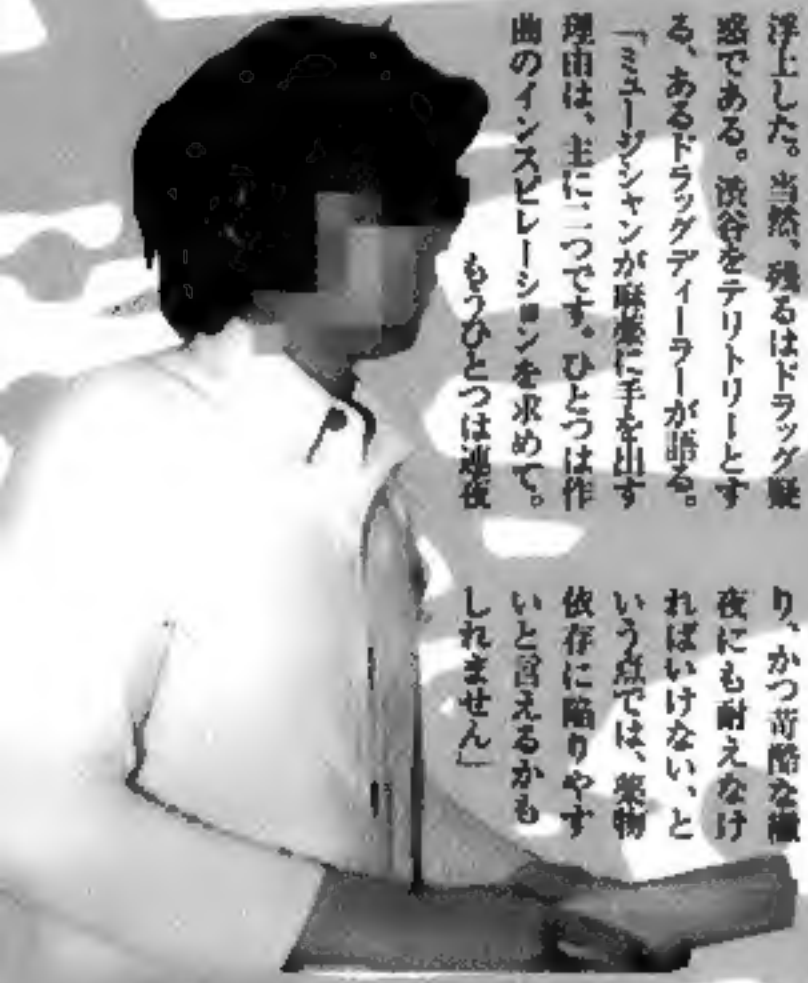
しかし、その後、竹島はどこに消え失せてしまったのか。沙村をよく知るわけでもない業界関係者が語ってくれた。

「沙村って人間は漫画家だけあって、人ひとり消すことに、何のためらいもないわけ。事実あいつの差し金で、今までに何十人もが殺されたり、犯されたりしてる。しかも自分で直接、手を下すわけじゃないから余計にタチが悪い。その竹島って女も今ごろコンクリ抱っこして、レマン湖か記憶の底にでも沈んでると思うよ」

にわかには信じがたい話だが、こんな眉唾な話が事実だとしたら、沙村こそまさに巨悪！　他人の生殺与奪を握り、なおかつその人生を弄び、陰でほくそ笑む暴虐の漫画家・沙村……。このような人物を野放しにしないためにも本誌は、制作上の人物にも一定の人権を与えるべきだと、これからも強く訴えていきたい。

カネ、女、そして暴力……。疑惑で塗り固められた巨悪漫画家・沙村広明(18)に、またひとつ黒い噂が浮上した。当然、残るはドラッグ疑惑である。渋谷をテリトリーとする、あるドラッグディーラーが語る。

「ミュージシャンが麻薬に手を出す理由は、主に二つです。ひとつは作曲のインスピレーションを求めて。もうひとつは逃夜にわたるツアーの疲労から逃れるためです。漫画家という仕事も、同じアイデアをひねり出す必要があり、かつ苛酷な徹夜にも耐えなければいけない、という点では、薬物依存に陥りやすいと言えるかもしれません」



時めかり間際の失踪や、原稿の遅れなど、数々の巧妙な手段で歴代担当編集をショック死させてきたシリアルキラー沙村広明(別人)。死体も出ないので、事件すべてが完全犯罪だ。

ということは、沙村も薬物依存症なのだろうか。いや、一歩上をいって漫画界薬物汚染の元凶だったりしたら巨悪としては実に貫禄充分である。沙村の元側近が証言する。

「徹夜が多いのは事実ですが、残念ながら違法なドラッグの常用はないようです。ただし市販の覚醒剤覚ましドリンクや、各種サプリメントを乱用する姿を目撃したことはあります」

デビュー当時は可憐だったのに、気づけば十年選手の凛ちゃんです。乳首も出さない"限界セクシー"の繰り返しに、さすがのファンも呆れ気味。フェイドアウトも時間の問題でしょう。

メントとはいえ、見た目は薬。そして薬は英語でドラッグ。つまり沙村のドラッグ乱用は、ある意味、事実といえなくもないわけである。服用したところで幻覚効果も、命に関わることともないとはいえ、決して褒められたことではないだろう。このような人物は、一刻も早く司直の手に委ねてみたいものだが、これじゃ不可能だよな。まったく地道なところだねえ、漫画界は……。

ありますね」

いかにサプリ

# ……というわけで、沙村広明・最新読み切り

## 『チャイナ・キャット・ドレス・ガール』(仮題)は年内に本誌登場予定デス!

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※内容は変更になる場合があります(でもマジやるよー)。

## 遂に噴出した最終疑惑は新作発表!? オマケにむげにんと2本同時掲載で、あいた上下の口も塞がらない出血サービス&初体験サイン会!……企画中絶は絶対NGの気迫で待て!!

さすがの巨悪漫画家にも、一片の良心が残っていた、ということなのだろうか。悪徳の限りを尽くした、あの沙村広明(45)が、この期に及んで新作を準備しているというのである。以前の報道どおり「おひっこし」が別人の作であるとするなら、なんと「むげにん」以来、初の読み切りがアフタヌーン本誌に登場となるわけだ。ある事情通がエセ関西弁で語ってくれた。

「もうかりまっかー? いやー描くらしいですわ、沙村ハン。新作らしいですで。しかもアンタ、「むげにん」も休まれへんのやて。驚きでっサーホンマ。しかも年内に終せるゆうんやから、プチあげんのも大概にしときー、ゆうたったわ。大体2本で何ページになるんやろなぁ。合計80ページぐらい? どーやろなぁ。全ページ真っ白なるんちゃうか。連載は苦手な漫画家サンらしいからなぁ(笑)。ほなサイナラ」

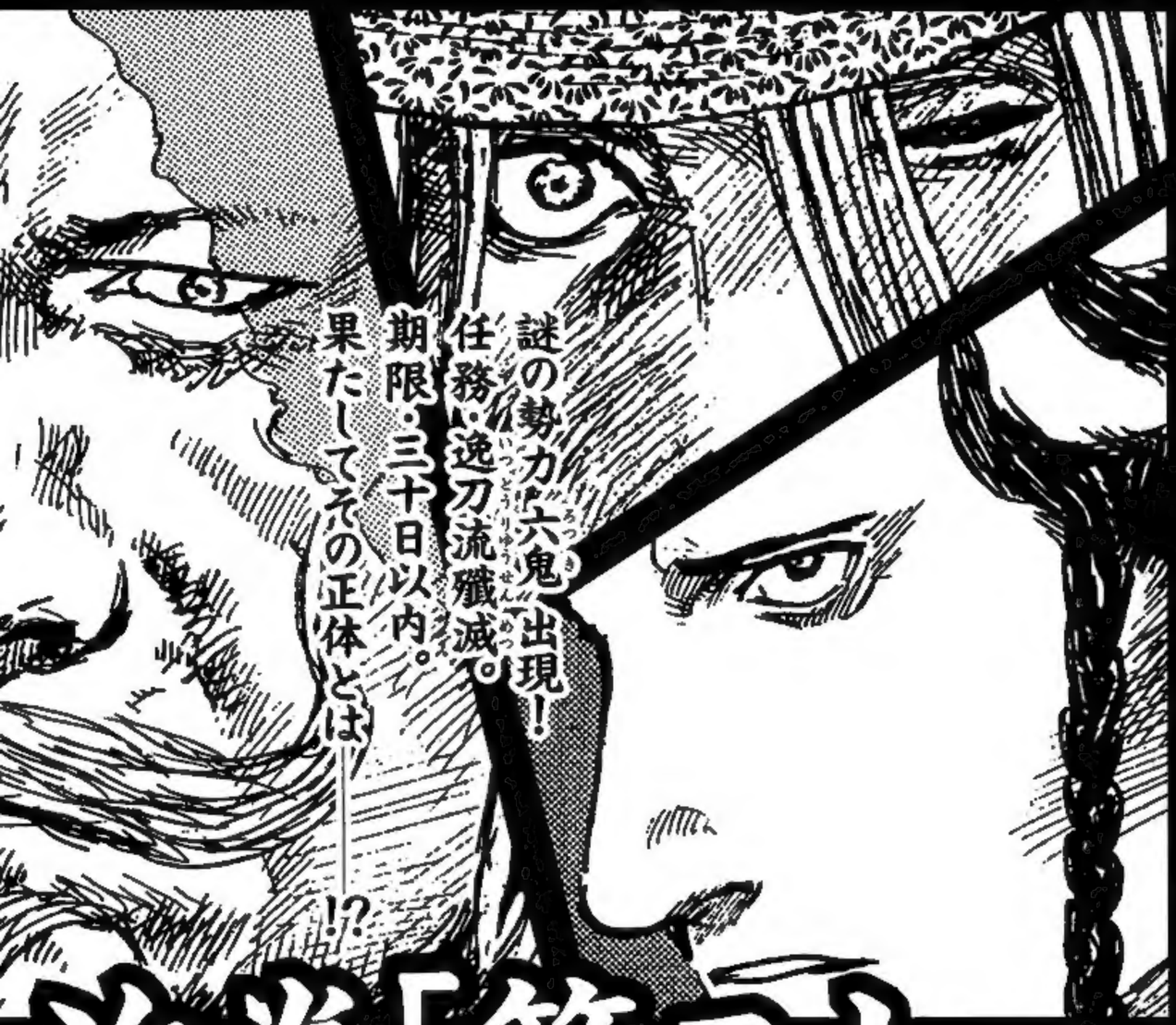
まったくひどい関西弁である。とはいえ、漫画を描くスピードは、実は相当速いという噂もある沙村のこと、今までは本業よりも悪業に忙しく、「無限の住人」の月産30枚が限界であったが、心を入れ換え本業に専心するのであればじゅうぶん可能かも……などと考えている間に、さらなる衝撃情報が! なんと今年の夏、「無限の住人」最新単行本19巻の発売を記念して、宮城県仙台市の某書店にて、生涯初のサイン会を行うというのである!!

沙村のサイン会嫌いは有名ですし、宮城県仙台市の某書店にて、生涯初のサイン会を行うというのである!!

沙村のサイン会嫌いは有名ですのに嫌いというのも変な話ですが、とにかく嫌いなんだそうです」(講出事情通)

関西人を偽るのはやめたようである。それはさておき、これほどまでに沙村が、漫画家としての〝やる気〟を出したこと百体、前代未聞の珍事。「どーせ期待しても裏切られるだけ」とヤサグレるファンの気持ちも、充分すぎるほど理解できるが、ここはひとつ、期待などせず待ってみようではないか。年内ならば、拉いても笑っても、あと半年もないのだから。それにつけても沙村が、そこまで嫌っていたサイン会を引き受ける気になったという不気味な変心ぶり……その真には、やはり、かねてから噂されていた「ある人物の死」が関わっているとしか考えられないのも事実。が、特に誰かが死んだという事実がないことも、また事実なのである。

# 最終章開幕



次巻[第二十一巻]乞う御期待!!

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